

Aruba

TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Monday, August 20, 2012



Mine workers sing at the Lonmin mine near Rustenburg, South Africa, Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012. South African police on Thursday, opened fire killing 34, in a crowd of striking workers at a platinum mine.

Lonmin to mine workers: Work Monday or fired

ANDREW DRAKE

Associated Press

MARIKANA, South Africa (AP) — Miners must return to work Monday or face being fired from the platinum mine where rivalry between unions exploded into violence that led to the deaths of 44 people in a week, Lonmin PLC said Sunday. Thirty-four strikers were gunned down by police in one of the worst displays of state violence since apartheid ended in 1994.

President Jacob Zuma declared a week of national mourning starting Monday to commemorate the lives of all South Africans who have died violently, especially the 44 at Marikana mine. □

WIKISPEAKS



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange gestures after his statement to the media and supporters on a balcony of the Ecuadorian Embassy in central London, Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012.

Associated Press

Assange accuses U.S. of a 'witch hunt'

DAVID STRINGER

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Wikileaks founder Julian Assange portrayed himself Sunday as a victim of an American "witch hunt" over his secret-spilling website in a defiant

address from the balcony of an embassy where he has holed up to avoid extradition to face sex assault allegations.

Surrounded by British police who want to detain him, Assange made no men-

tion of the sex assault case in Sweden or how long he would remain in Ecuador's embassy in London, where he took refuge two months ago. Instead he shifted focus to the U.S., accusing the government of targeting

him for revealing a trove of American diplomatic and military secrets.

"I ask President Obama to do the right thing.

Continued on Page 3



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Japan activists land, raise flags on disputed isle

EMILY WANG

Associated Press

SENKAKU ISLANDS, Japan

(AP) — Japan's territorial

disputes with its neighbors

flared anew Sunday as a

group of nationalist ac-

tivists swam ashore and

raised flags on an island

also claimed by China.

Chinese took to the streets

in protest, overturning Ja-

p-anese-branded cars and

smashing windows at some

Japanese-owned busi-

nesses, as Beijing lodged

a formal complaint, urging

Tokyo to prevent frictions

from escalating further.

Ten Japanese made an

unauthorized landing on

Uotsuri, the largest in a

small archipelago known

in Japan as the Senkaku

Islands and in China as the

Diaoyu Islands. The unin-

habited islands surrounded

by rich fishing grounds are

controlled by Japan but

also claimed by China and

Taiwan.

Of the 10 who visited the

island, five were conserva-

tive local assembly mem-

bers.

"The Senkakus are un-

doubtedly Japanese ter-

ritory. It is to be expected

that Japanese would take

that to heart," said Eiji Kosa-

ka, an assemblyman from

Tokyo's Arakawa district.

China's Foreign Ministry

protested, summoning Ja-

p-an's ambassador to voice

its complaints.

"The Japanese side should

properly handle the current

issue and avoid seriously

damaging the overall situ-

ation of China-Japan rela-

tions," ministry spokesman

Qin Gang said in a state-

ment.

Tokyo rejected a complaint

by China's ambassador to

Japan, Cheng Yonghua,

according to Japan's For-

eign Ministry.



Chinese look at overturned Japanese cars after an anti-Japan protest in Shenzhen, China's Guangdong Province, Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012. Japanese activists swam ashore and raised flags Sunday on an island claimed by both Japan and China, fanning an escalating territorial dispute between the two Asian powers.

(AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

Vice Foreign Minister

Kenichiro Sasae told Cheng

in a phone conversation

that the protests in China

were "regrettable" and

urged Chinese authorities

to ensure the safety of tens

of thousands of Japanese

citizens there, the ministry

said. China's official Xinhua

News Agency reported

protests in cities across the

country. Demonstrators

burned Japanese flags,

overturned or smashed

Japanese cars and in some

places broke windows of

Japan-related businesses.

Days earlier, a group of 14

Hong Kong residents and

mainland Chinese traveled

by boat to the islands, some

swimming ashore. Protest-

ers in Beijing, Hong Kong

and other cities praised

them as heroes and burned

Japanese flags, but Japan

arrested the 14 for landing

without authorization.

On Friday, Tokyo deported

the group, seeking to quiet

the regional spat. But plans

for further visits by activists

on both sides appear likely

to further inflame the terri-

torial tensions.

Taiwanese Foreign Minister

Timothy Yang summoned

Japan's de facto ambas-

sador to Taiwan, Sumio Ta-

rui, on Sunday to lodge a

protest over the visit by the

Japanese activists to the

islands, which are about

190 kilometers (120 miles)

off Taiwan's northeastern

coast. Yang said the "pro-

vocative act" had height-

ened tensions in the area,

according to a ministry

statement.

The spat over long-con-

tested territories comes as

China's ruling Communist

Party prepares for a major

leadership transition. Lead-

ers in both China and Ja-

p-an face strong domestic

pressure to defend nation-

al interests. □

Iraqi Sunni cleric's convoy bombed

SINAN SALAHEDDIN

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — A bomb

struck the convoy of a se-

nior Sunni cleric in western

Baghdad on Sunday, killing

four and critically wound-

ing the anti-extremist Mus-

lim leader, police said.

The attack highlights the

threats faced by relatively

moderate Sunni clerics

whom the Shiite-led gov-

ernment needs to help re-

build the country and es-

tablish security. It follows a

series of assaults in what is

becoming an increasingly

bloody month.

The blast in the capital's

Yarmouk neighborhood left

Sheik Mahdi al-Sumaidaie

badly hurt, a Sunni religious

official said. The cleric had

just finished leading prayers

at a nearby mosque to

mark the beginning of the

Eid al-Fitr holiday, which fol-

lows the holy month of Ra-

madan.

Al-Sumaidaie has sided

with the government

against Sunni extremists.

Earlier this year, he called

for a unified religious au-

thority to bridge the gap

between Iraq's Sunnis and

Shiites. Insurgents often tar-

get Sunni clerics seen as

working closely with the

Shiite-led government.

Two police officers and a

hospital official confirmed

the attack.

They said four of the cler-

ic's bodyguards were killed

and three others were

wounded.

All officials spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity because

they were not authorized

to release the information.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Ma-

liki condemned the attack.

In a statement posted

on his website, the Shiite

leader said the attack was

aimed at "spreading sedi-

tion and silencing any pa-

triotic moderate voice."

"Even as we condemn this

ugly crime, we are confi-

dent that our people are

aware of the evil goals of

such schemes," he said.

Al-Sumaidaie was one of

the Sunni religious leaders

who called on followers to

fight U.S.-led forces after

the 2003 invasion. □

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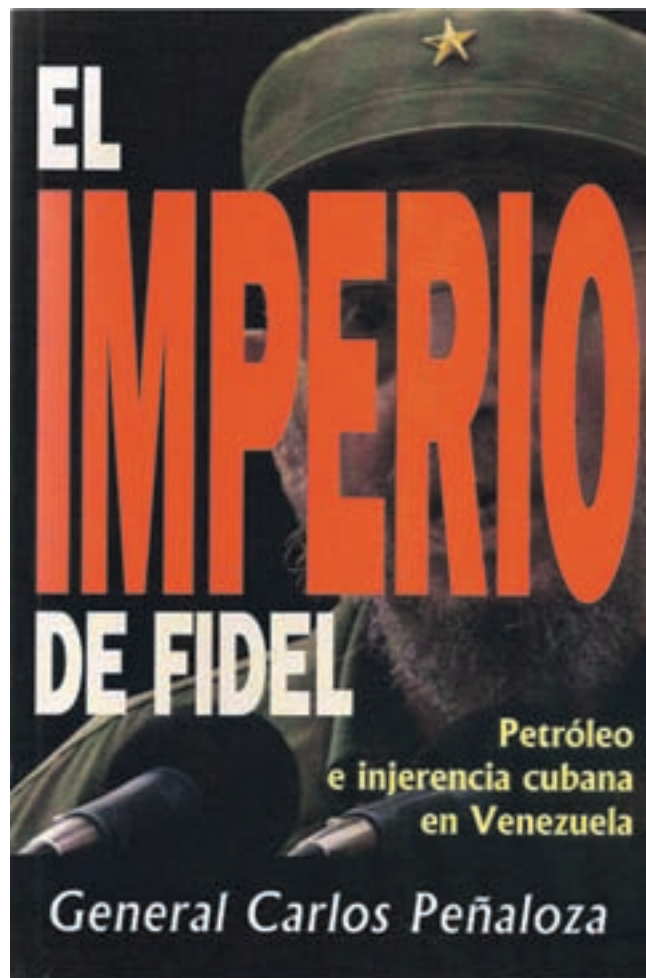
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Witch Hunt

Continued from Front Page

The United States must renounce its witch hunt against WikiLeaks," Assange said, wearing a formal blue shirt and red tie in front of the Ecuadorean flag.

"The United States must vow that it will not seek to prosecute our staff or our supporters," he said, referring specifically to Pfc. Bradley Manning, who awaits trial in Virginia in the scandal.

Assange and his supporters claim the Swedish case is the first move of a Washington-orchestrated plot to make him stand trial in the U.S., which Swedish authorities dispute.

The White House declined comment Sunday, but on Saturday said Assange's fate is an issue for Sweden, Britain and Ecuador to re-

solve.

Assange, a 41-year-old Australian citizen, shot to international prominence in 2010 when his WikiLeaks website began publishing its huge cache of American secrets, including 250,000 U.S. Embassy cables that highlighted sometimes embarrassing backroom dealings.

As he toured the globe to highlight the disclosures, two women accused him of sex offenses during a trip to Sweden. Assange has said the sex with the women was consensual and denied wrongdoing, but has fought off efforts to return him to Sweden for questioning for two years. Ecuador's President Rafael Correa granted Assange asylum Thursday, and he remains out of reach of British authorities while he is inside the country's embassy. Britain insists that if he steps outside, he will

be detained and sent to Sweden. Assange praised Ecuador Sunday as "a courageous Latin American nation took a stand for justice," in offering him sanctuary. He suggested he had won the support of a host of Latin American nations — including Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Argentina. Of those five, however, only Argentina has endorsed Ecuador's decision to grant asylum.

Assange urged the U.S. to release Manning, the U.S. soldier charged with aiding the enemy by passing the secret files to Wikileaks. A Virginia grand jury is studying evidence that might link Assange to Manning. Calling Manning "one of



In this photo released by Ecuador's Presidency, Ecuador's President Rafael Correa, right, and Ecuador's Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino speak during a meeting of foreign ministers of the Bolivarian Alliance, or ALBA, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012. Associated Press

the world's foremost political prisoners," Assange said: "If Bradley Manning

really did as he is accused, he is a hero, an example to us all." □

Chinese politician's wife to receive verdict today

GILLIAN WONG

Associated Press

HEFEI, China (AP) — A fallen Chinese politician's wife who confessed to killing a British businessman is due to hear the verdict Monday in her murder trial, but Communist Party leaders may already have decided against a death penalty for fear it could incite public sympathy for her. The conclusion of Gu Kailai's trial will be a step toward closing a scandal that has rocked the Chinese leadership at a sensitive time when it is preparing to hand over power to younger leaders. But even after the verdict is announced, questions will remain over the fate of her husband, Bo Xilai, a prominent figure who was dismissed in March as party secretary of the major city of Chongqing. Gu is accused of killing Briton Neil Heywood, a former Bo family associate. State media say the two had a dispute over money and Heywood allegedly threatened her son. A family aide has been charged as an accessory. State media say Gu confessed to intentional homicide, for which the penalty ranges from 10 years in prison to death. One option is a suspended death sentence that can be commuted later to a long prison term. □

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Both campaigns seize role of Medicare defender

TRIP GABRIEL
HELENE COOPER

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THE VILLAGES, Fla. — After several days in which he mentioned only generalities on the campaign trail, Rep. Paul Ryan sought over the weekend to play offense on Medicare, attacking in detail President Barack Obama's health care plan, seizing an issue that has the potential to be one of Ryan's biggest liabilities in joining the Republican presidential ticket.

Ryan, who has proposed a controversial voucher program for Medicare, accused Obama of being the bigger threat because of savings wrung from the growth of spending in the program contained in the president's health care overhaul of 2010.

He said a board of "15 unelected bureaucrats" would decide what should be cut, and that "one out of six of our hospitals and

our nursing homes will go out of business."

"The president raids \$716 billion from the Medicare program to pay for the Obamacare program," Ryan said, to boos from a crowd of about 1,000 seniors in this vast retirement community.

Left unsaid was that his own

budget plan passed by the House in March includes the same \$716 billion in savings, to be used to reduce the deficit.

Having Ryan take the Medicare fight to Florida, a crucial battleground state that Obama won in 2008, represented an effort by Mitt Romney's campaign

to turn what many strategists predicted would be the ticket's Achilles' heel — Ryan's detailed and aggressive budget cuts — into an asset.

With his 78-year-old mother looking on, Ryan, 42, wove a story of generational obligation to personalize the long-term threat to Medicare's insolvency. He described how he and his mother, Betty Ryan Douglas, were the primary caregivers for a grandmother with Alzheimer's disease who moved into their Wisconsin house when he was a teenager.

"You learn a lot about life," he said. "Medicare was there for my family, for my grandma, when we needed it. And Medicare is there for my mom when she needs it now, and we have to keep that guarantee."

To save Medicare for current and future retirees, he added, "you have to reform it for my generation,

so it doesn't go bankrupt when we want to retire."

Obama, campaigning in New Hampshire on Saturday, dismissed the Romney campaign's tactics on Medicare, saying that it was Romney and Ryan who threatened the program.

"Now you think they'd avoid talking about Medicare, considering both of them have proposed to voucherize the Medicare system," Obama said. "They want seniors to get a voucher to buy their own insurance, which would force seniors to pay an additional \$6,400 for their health care."

Obama defended Medicare and his health care overhaul, saying the "only changes to your benefits" were that Medicare now covers new preventive services like cancer screenings at no cost. The \$718 billion in cost savings — or cuts — over the next decade, he said, add about eight years to Medicare's solvency. □



Republican vice-presidential candidate Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., campaigns at The Villages, Fla., Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012. After several days in which he mentioned only generalities on the campaign trail, Ryan sought over the weekend to play offense on Medicare, attacking in detail President Barack Obama's health care plan, seizing an issue that has the potential to be one of Ryan's biggest liabilities in joining the Republican presidential ticket.

(AP Photo/Phelan M. Ebenhack)



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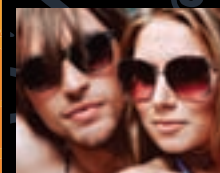
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Candidates pass Sunday in church

CHARLES BABINGTON

Associated Press

WOLFEBORO, N.H. (AP) —

President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney spent a quiet Sunday attending church with their families, resting up for the campaign's final 11 weeks and the approaching party nominating conventions.

While the Romneys enjoyed beautiful sunshine in New Hampshire, and the Obamas endured rain in Washington, both men sent top advisers to the Sunday talk shows. These surrogates sparred mainly over Medicare and taxes, just as the candidates themselves have done for days.

Obama and Romney plunge back into heavy campaigning and fundraising this week. Targeted states include Ohio, Nevada and New Hampshire. The debate's dominant topic remains how to



President Barack Obama, left, with first lady Michelle Obama, right, and their daughters Sasha and Malia, second from left, walk from the White House in Washington to a nearby church to attend services Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

tame Medicare's explosive growth without hurting the millions of elderly Americans, and future retirees, who count on it to pay for health care.

TV interviewers pressed Romney aides to explain how the GOP ticket can restore a proposed \$716 billion cut in Medicare spend-

ing's growth over 10 years without worsening the program's projected shortfall in funding. Moderators also noted that Romney's running mate, House Budget

Committee Chairman Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, originally joined Obama in backing the proposed \$716 billion, 10-year reduction.

Romney adviser Eric Fehrnstrom told CNN's "State of the Union" that Ryan and Romney are now in accord. The \$716 billion can safely remain in the program, he said, because Romney will "introduce choice and competition through more private plans."

Romney also would trim benefits for wealthier people and gradually raise the eligibility age.

Obama aide Stephanie Cutter, also on CNN, said Romney's plan to keep the \$716 billion in Medicare over 10 years would do nothing to shore up the program. □

US town honors Marine convicted in Iraq deaths

MERIDEN, Connecticut (AP) — A Marine who was convicted in the 2005 killings of unarmed Iraqis returned home this weekend to Connecticut for a golf tournament organized by local veterans for his benefit.

Former Marine Staff Sgt. Frank Wuterich told the Record-Journal of Meriden on Saturday that some people think prosecutors let a child-killer go free. He says that's absolutely not the case.

"It wasn't the military letting off a murderer, rampager," he said.

In February, he received a general discharge under honorable conditions — one step below an honorable discharge. Wuterich was the only Marine convicted in the killings in Haditha.

Wuterich, who grew up in Meriden but now lives in California, pleaded guilty to negligent dereliction of duty as the leader of the squad that killed 24 Iraqis. He apologized for the loss of life but said his squad did not behave dishonorably.

Local veterans, including golf tournament organizer Chip Geriak, have rallied around Wuterich and criticized the military, which they say has given Wuterich a bad deal.

Geriak said the decision to hold the golf tournament in Portland for Wuterich was unanimous among the tournament committee.

"He's got three daughters, and he's a single father. We felt for the guy," Geriak said. "He gave a lot of years of his life to this country, and he deserves some recognition and some help."

The tournament was organized by veterans groups including the Polish Legion of American Veterans, the American Legion and Marine Corps League Silver City Detachment. Bill Zelinsky, commander of the Polish Legion Sons Detachment, said combat veterans he's spoken with don't find fault with Wuterich's actions in Haditha. □

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Ala. man fights to keep wife buried in front yard

JAY REEVES

Associated Press

STEVENSON, Ala. (AP) —

James Davis is fighting to keep the remains of his late wife right where he dug her grave: In the front yard of his home, just a few feet from the porch.

Davis said he was only abiding by Patsy Ruth Davis' wishes when he buried her outside their log home in 2009, yet the city sued to move the body elsewhere. A county judge ordered Davis to disinter his wife, but the ruling is on hold as the Alabama Civil Court of Appeals considers his challenge.



James Davis, 73, stands over the grave of his wife, Patsy, in the front yard of the home they shared in Stevenson, Ala. The city sued to make Davis move his wife's remains from the residential tract, and Davis is asking the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals to block an order requiring him to disinter her remains.

(AP Photo/Jay Reeves)

Davis, 73, said he never expected such a fight.

"Good Lord, they've raised pigs in their yard, there's horses out the road here in a corral in the city limits, they've got other gravesites here all over the place," said Davis.

"And there shouldn't have been a problem."

While state health officials say family burial plots aren't uncommon in Alabama, city officials worry about the precedent set by allowing a grave on a residential lot on one of the main streets through town. They say state law gives the city some control over where people bury their loved ones and have cited concerns about long-term care, appearance, property values and the complaints of some neighbors. "We're not in the 1800s any

longer," said city attorney Parker Edmiston.

"We're not talking about a homestead, we're not talking about someone who is out in the country on 40 acres of land. Mr. Davis lives in downtown Stevenson."

A strong libertarian streak runs through northeast Alabama, which has relatively few zoning laws to govern what people do with their property. Even a neighbor who got into a fight with Davis over the gravesite — Davis said he punched the man — isn't comfortable with limiting what a homeowner can do with his property.

"I don't think it's right, but it's not my place to tell him he can't do it," said George W. Westmoreland, 79, who served three tours of duty in Vietnam. □

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New fire forces evacuations in Northern California homes

JOHN S. MARSHALL

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Thousands of people have been told to leave their homes as a wildfire burning Sunday in thick forest threatened rural communities in far Northern California.

The fire that sparked around 11:30 a.m. Saturday has destroyed four homes and consumed nearly 11 square miles near the towns of Manton, Shingletown, and Viola, fire spokesman Daniel Berlant said. About 3,500 homes spread out across a rural area along the border of Tehama and Shasta counties are threatened, he said.

"A good majority are immediately threatened and a good number are in the path of the fire," Berlant said Sunday.

"We will be battling it hard today to protect as many of those homes as possible."

The cause of the fire has not been determined, but officials said it started after a series of lightning strikes in the area.

John Cluff, 42, told the Redding Searchlight that he was forced to flee his home before the evacuations were issued. He went back for his dog about 3:30 p.m. "The fire basically chased me out of the property," he said. □



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Like NASA rover, family switches over to Mars time

ALICIA CHANG
Associated Press

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, California (AP) — For one family, an exotic summer getaway means living on Mars.

Martian time, that is.

Since the landing of NASA's newest Mars rover, flight director David Oh's family has taken the unusual step of tagging along as he leaves Earth time behind and syncs his body clock with the red planet.

Every mission to Mars, a small army of scientists and engineers reports to duty on "Mars time" for the first three months. But it's almost unheard of for an entire family to flip their orderly lives upside down, shifting to what amounts to a time zone change a day.

Intrigued about abiding by extraterrestrial time, Oh's wife, Bryn, could not pass up the chance to take their kids — 13-year-old Braden, 10-year-old Ashlyn and 8-year-old Devyn — on a Martian adventure from their home near the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory where the Curiosity rover was built.

"We all feel a little sleepy, a little jet-lagged all day long, but everyone is doing great," Bryn Oh said, two weeks into the experiment. Days on Mars last a tad longer. Earth rotates on its axis once every 24 hours — the definition of a day. Neighbor Mars spins more lazily. Days there — known as sols — last 39 minutes and 35 seconds longer than on Earth. The difference may not seem like much each day, but it adds up.

To stay in lockstep, nearly 800 people on the \$2.5 billion project have surrendered to the Martian cycle of light and dark. In the simplest sense, each day slides forward 40 minutes.

That results in wacky work, sleep and eating schedules. Many say it feels like perpetual jet lag. The Oh family broke in slowly. A sign on their front door warns: "On Mars

Time: Flight Director Asleep. Come Back Later."

Days before Curiosity's Aug. 5 touchdown, the children stayed up until 11:30 p.m. and slept in until 10 a.m. In the beginning, it wasn't much different from a typical day on summer vacation. As the days wore on, they stayed up later and later, waking up in the afternoon and evening.

One day last week, the family ate a 3 p.m. breakfast, 8 p.m. lunch, 2:30 a.m. dinner and 5 a.m. dessert before heading off to bed. To sleep when the sun is out, their bedroom windows are covered with aluminum foil or cloth to keep out any sliver of light. In the hallway, a handmade calendar keeps track of the days and schedules are written on an oversized mirror. A digital clock in the master bedroom is set to Mars time.

Bryn Oh keeps a meticulous spreadsheet updated with her husband's work hours and the family's activities. They wear a wireless device that monitors their steps, calories burned and sleep patterns. When David Oh tells co-workers on Mars time and friends on Earth time about the switch: "Some of them think it's really cool to have the kids along. Some who worked on other Mars missions have said, 'You're crazy.'" Being night owls has its perks: Braden, Ashlyn and Devyn saw their first shooting star. The family went on night hikes in the hills around the neighborhood. They had a late dinner in Hollywood and gawked at street performers on the Walk of Fame with other tourists. □



David Oh, a flight director of NASA's latest Mars mission, far left and his family have breakfast at 3 pm at their home in La Canada Flintridge, Calif. The Oh family has been living on Mars time and following an odd schedule ever since the NASA rover Curiosity landed in an ancient Martian crater on Aug. 5. Sitting from left: David, Devyn, his wife Bryn, Braden, and Ashlyn.
(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

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PARANORMAN IN 2D daily: 12:30 - 3:00 matinee: 12:30 - 3:00 late show: 11:45 PG	PARANORMAN IN 2D daily: 2:00 matinee: 2:00 late show: 11:45 PG
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Michigan's GOP governor evades easy labels

MONICA DAVEY

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DETROIT — In this political age of ideological purity, Gov. Rick Snyder of Michigan is an enigma.

Snyder, a Republican business executive who took office last year after a wave of GOP statehouse victories, has told his Republican-dominated Legislature that a right-to-work measure is not on his agenda.

The issue, he says, is too divisive.

And as some lawmakers made it clear that they intended to take their time considering their options on the national health care law, Snyder said Michigan needed to move swiftly to set up a health insurance exchange. Then, last month, to the astonishment of Republicans who had sponsored some voting measures, Snyder vetoed several of them, including one that called for requiring photo identification to get an absentee ballot.

Snyder, who never sought elective office before he ran for governor with the unlikely slogan “One Tough Nerd,” says he is unambiguously a Republican, and it is a description with which many Michigan Democrats

strenuously (and unhappily) concur. Yet Snyder, a former accountant who has single-mindedly focused on Michigan's economic woes, also studiously steers clear of public party-line battles and avoids the sort of language that

riles up some Republican crowds. And, in a state that Mitt Romney hopes to make a battleground, he has even sidestepped opportunities to criticize President Barack Obama. “I’m a proud Republican — there’s no issue with that at all, so why can’t I be a proud Republican and just try to solve problems?” Snyder, who turns 54 on Sunday, said in an interview.

“I feel a lot of this is just common sense,” he went on.

“If you dropped all the rhetoric, all the fighting, in a lot of ways people could come up with solutions they could all agree on.”

Snyder likes to call his approach “relentless positive action,” a term that prompts eye rolls from some Michigan politicians for its earnest, self-help-book sound and for his frequent use of it. The

nonideological tack has kept him outside the brightest spotlight, making him a quieter, plainer counterpart to firebrands like Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin or Gov. Paul R. LePage of Maine, who arrived in the same Republican wave.

Unsettled is whether Snyder's method can work with a national partisan divide that seems to grow deeper by the instant.

Republicans and business leaders here widely praise Snyder, crediting him with balancing the state's once-troubled budget, dumping a state business tax and presiding over an employment rebound in a state that not long ago had the highest jobless rate in the nation.

“He’s done an amazing job,” said Bill Ford, executive chairman of the Ford Motor Co. “Rick doesn’t get bogged down in partisan stuff.”

Snyder got favorable ratings from 47 percent of voters — including about three-quarters of Republicans, almost a quarter of Democrats and about half of independents — in a statewide survey by EPIC-MRA in July. Snyder's favorable number was similar to Obama's.

“This governor has taken ahold of a state that was at the bottom of the heap,” said State Sen. Darwin L. Booher, a Republican who praised Snyder's leadership despite having sponsored one of the voting bills Snyder rejected (and learning of the veto, he said, only an hour or two before it was issued).

“Sometimes it’s gotten him in trouble that he doesn’t look at things politically, but it’s refreshing.”

Democratic leaders dismiss Snyder's style as just a new political pose. His talk of inclusiveness and civility, in the view of Mark Brewer, the Democratic state party chairman, has masked one of the most conservative agendas of any Michigan governor since the 1940s.

They say he has all but ignored Democrats, who hold minorities in the Legislature, and has been mostly in lock step with Republicans. He has vetoed only six bills, as well as lines from 14 others. □



Gov. Rick Snyder (R-Mich.), second from right, talks with Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) as Mayor Dave Bing, right, stands nearby, in Detroit. Snyder has sought to fix his state's economy and to avoid party-line battles, but it is unsettled whether his approach can work with the deepening national partisan divide. (Fabrizio Costantini/The New York Times)

Courtship for the Romney-Ryan ticket started several years ago

MICHAEL BARBARO

© 2012 New York Times

It was supposed to be a 15-minute courtesy visit from a Republican with big presidential aspirations to a rising star in Congress with big ideas about how to address the nation's fiscal problems. Mitt Romney, who had just left office as governor of Massachusetts and was moving to the right on issues like abortion, was beginning to immerse himself in federal budget policy. Rep. Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin, who on that day in early 2007 had just become the top Republican on the House Budget Committee, was promoting a small-government libertarianism that within a few years would become Republican Party orthodoxy.

Inside the Longworth House Office Building, 15 minutes turned into an hour as the two men traded theories about how to overhaul Medicare, Social Security and the tax code, a pair of policy mavens out-geeking each other over esoterica like border-adjustable taxes. “We went deep into the weeds,” Ryan

recalled in an interview. It was the start of a on-again, off-again five-year courtship that encapsulated their party's gradual adoption of a more conservative stance on fiscal issues, a shift punctuated a week ago by Romney's selection of Ryan as his running mate.

His choice of Ryan had clear political overtones for Romney, who despite years of trying to win over the right was still viewed with some suspicion by many conservative leaders. But to the degree that it was a marriage of political convenience, it came about only after the two Republicans engaged in regular, substantive and previously undisclosed exchanges that by this spring had left Ryan convinced that Romney had come to a similar policy viewpoint. The future No. 2, it turned out, was doing some vetting of his own.

Over the past 18 months, with Romney emerging as the Republican Par-

ty's presidential nominee, the frequency and intensity of their communication deepened. Romney turned to Ryan for detailed consultations on his economic platform.

Ryan made sure his Medicare proposal in the House matched up with what Romney was offering on the campaign trail.

review language in Romney's planned speeches and opinion pieces, people close to both men said in interviews.

Ryan did not shy from offering pointed advice well before he was named running mate: For months, he had urged Romney to focus his campaign as much on a “a positive



Mitt Romney, the presumed Republican presidential candidate, and his running mate, Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), at a campaign event at the NASCAR Technical Institute in Mooresville, N.C., Aug. 12, 2012. A congenial meeting in 2007 between Romney and Ryan led to closer collaboration, especially in the last 18 months, as the Republican Party shifted more to the right. (Eric Thayer/The New York Times)

Romney recruited several of Ryan's top aides as campaign advisers, and the candidate's staff members asked the congressman to

vision” as on the shortcomings of the Obama presidency, something Romney has since emphasized □



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During lull in battle, Assad makes rare appearance

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad attended prayers in a Damascus mosque to mark the start of a Muslim holiday on Sunday, his first appearance in public since the bombing last month that killed four of his top security officials. Elsewhere in the country, thousands staged anti-government protests in mosques and cemeteries following special prayers marking Eid al-Fitr, the three-day holiday that ends the holy fasting month of Ramadan. Pious Muslims traditionally visit graves and recite prayers for the dead on the holiday. Amateur video posted by activists on the Internet show a large group of worshippers in a mosque at al-Zahera district in Damascus shouting: "There is no God but Allah" and "Assad is the enemy of God," while clapping their hands over their heads. "May God protect the Free Syrian Army!" they also cried, referring to the main rebel group fighting to topple Assad.

Ramadan in Syria was particularly deadly this year as the civil war reached the two largest cities, Damascus and Aleppo. The Syrian regime has suffered a series of setbacks over the past month that point to a loosening of its grip on the country. The July 18 rebel bombing of the state-security headquarters in the capital was a major blow to Assad. His brother-in-law was among the four killed officials.

There has also been a steady stream of high-level defections by government officials, diplomats and generals, though Assad's inner circle and military have largely kept their cohesive

stance behind him. And the regime has been unable to fully subdue rebel challenges in the two major cities, Damascus and Aleppo.

Syrian state TV broadcast footage showing Assad praying at the city's Rihab al-Hamad mosque, a relatively small mosque in al-Muhajireen district only few hundred meters (yards) from the presidential palace.

Residents of Damascus said security forces blocked streets and encircled several central mosques in the capital from Saturday evening, possibly to confuse people about where Assad would attend the traditional holiday prayers.

Unlike previous years, Assad was not shown arriving or leaving in his convoy. He was pictured seated cross-legged on the mosque floor, wearing a suit and tie, and later, standing and briefly shaking hands with officials before leaving.

"All this points to a state of

confusion and lack of confidence at the leadership level," said Syria-based activist Mohammad Saeed. "It shows they don't have security in the capital un-

der control." Assad's appearance comes amid much speculation on the whereabouts of Vice President Farouk al-Sharaa, who was said by some members

of the Free Syrian Army to have defected to the opposition. On Saturday, his office denied the reports. Al-Sharaa was not shown in the footage at the mosque with Assad, but observers said the two rarely attend the same functions for security reasons.

The last time Assad appeared in public was on July 4 when he gave a speech in parliament.

Since then, there has been a sharp escalation in the civil war with almost daily fighting in some districts of the capital. As it battles for survival against the rebels, the regime has increasingly resorted to the use of airstrikes, particularly in the north where rebels have seized large swathes of territory. Abdelbaset Sieda, president of the Syrian National Council opposition group, reiterated his call for international powers to militarily enforce a no-fly zone that would prevent Syrian regime aircraft being used against rebels as well as safe corridors to protect civilians. □



In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrian president, Bashar Assad, performs Eid prayers in the Hamad Mosque in Damascus, Syria, Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012. Assad prayed early on Sunday at the start of Eid al-Fitr, a three-day holiday marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The last time he appeared in public was on Wednesday, July 4, 2012 when he gave a speech in parliament.

(AP Photo/SANA)



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Monti: Italy's financial situation makes progress

FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy's financial situation has made progress compared with last year, the premier said Sunday, believing the country will eventually emerge from the bleak economic crisis.

Mario Monti said the condition of the economy was "worse" in 2011, before he was appointed to lead Italy down a tough path of austerity, new taxes and pension reforms.

But Monti, an economist who put together a government of technocrats in November, didn't venture any timeframe for the hoped-for exit from financial distress.

"I work daily to grapple with the crisis," Monti said in a speech to politicians, labor and industry figures to the Adriatic beach resort

town of Rimini.

"But are we really in crisis? A year ago, we thought we were less so, but perhaps we were more so," Monti argued. "I see the moment approaching in which we'll emerge."

He explained that by pushing through Parliament measures that politicians had avoided for years, like reining in Italy's generous pension system, the country is in many ways in better shape now than when he took the helm.

Monti was appointed to replace media mogul Silvio Berlusconi, who resigned under intense market pressures as Italy's borrowing costs soared against a backdrop of a high deficit, sluggish economy and stubborn unemployment.

With elections looming in spring, there is the risk that political leaders will increas-

ingly resist Monti's prescription for financial healing, which so far has included the revival of property taxes, higher sales taxes, slash-



Italy's Prime Minister Mario Monti touches his forehead during a press conference in Madrid, Spain. Italy's premier says the financial situation has made progress compared to last year and he believes the country will eventually emerge from the economic crisis. Monti said Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012. Italy now has more credibility and even influence in Europe, thanks to pension and other reforms passed in Parliament by what he dubbed the "miracle" of center-right and center-left political forces pulling together. (AP Photo/Andres Kudacki)

term.

In his speech, Monti lavished praise on lawmakers from a wide political spectrum, who so far have generally given him his way in his anti-crisis strategy. "Daily I see the miracle" of rival politicians pulling together to back his proposals, Monti said.

One of the few political parties to oppose Monti has been Berlusconi's ex-ally, the regional Northern League. But the League, weakened by scandals, has lost much of the clout it had enjoyed as the lynchpin party in three Berlusconi coalitions since the early 1990s. □

Bomber kills 7 Russian policemen at funeral

SERGEI VENYAVSKY

Associated Press

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia (AP) — A suicide bomber blew himself up as police-

men in southern Russia gathered Sunday for the funeral of a slain colleague, killing at least seven of the policemen and badly wounding 12 other people, investigators said.

The funeral was held at the home of an officer who had been shot dead the night before by militants in Ingushetia, one of the predominantly Muslim republics in Russia's restive North Caucasus region. In the nearby republic of Dagestan, two masked gunmen burst into a Shiite mosque during Saturday evening prayers and opened fire, wounding eight people, police said. Shiites are a minority in Dagestan and throughout the North Caucasus, where an Islamic insurgency has raged for years. The latest attacks took place as Muslims in Russia and around the world prepared for the feast that

celebrates the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Police investigating the shooting at the mosque in the city of Khasavyurt found a large homemade bomb and were able to defuse it Sunday morning, Dagestan police spokesman Vyacheslav Gasanov said. Militants have often rigged explosives to go off as police respond to a shooting or other attack.

In Ingushetia, Gov. Yunus-Bek Yevkurov said the militants had killed the police officer in the town of Malgobek to set up the suicide attack at the funeral the next day. In Chechnya, where the Islamic insurgency began during separatist wars in the 1990s, four policemen were killed late Friday when their vehicle was attacked by gunmen firing Kalashnikov automatic weapons. □

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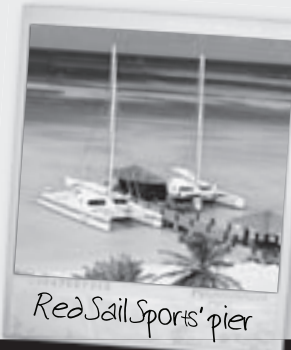
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Man in Afghan uniform kills NATO service member

HEIDI VOGT

MIRWAIS KHAN

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

A man in an Afghan police uniform shot and killed an international service member on Sunday, NATO said, raising the death toll to 10 in such attacks in the space of just two weeks.

The surge in violence by Afghan allies against their international partners has raised doubts about the ability of the two forces to work together at a key transition time. Afghan forces are expected to take over security for the country by the end of 2014, when the majority of international combat forces are scheduled to leave.

On the other side, a coalition airstrike killed dozens of Taliban militants, including one of their leaders, officials said.

Few details were immediately available about Sunday's killing of a coalition member in southern Afghanistan. NATO said only

that they and Afghan authorities were investigating. Afghan officials could not be reached for comment.

The Taliban have been actively recruiting members of the Afghan security forces, saying in a statement last week that they considered these turncoat attacks a major part of their strategy against international forces. Once an anomaly, these attacks have been climbing in recent months. There have been 30 such turncoat attacks so far this year, up from 11 in 2011.

On Saturday Defense Secretary Leon Panetta called Afghan President Hamid Karzai to encourage him to work with U.S. commanders to ensure more rigorous vetting of Afghan recruits.

On Friday it was disclosed that U.S. troops have been ordered to carry loaded weapons at all times in Afghanistan, even when they are on their bases. The order was a precaution against such insider attacks.

The monthlong Ramadan



Afghans look at a pool of blood at the scene of an explosion at a cemetery in Lashkar Gah southwest of Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012. A bomb hidden in the cemetery exploded Sunday as a police official and his family were visiting the grave of a relative, killing the official and his brother, police said. A man in an Afghan police uniform shot and killed an international service member on Sunday, NATO said, raising the death toll to 10 in such attacks in the space of just two weeks.

(AP Photo/Abdul Khaleq)

fasting period that ended Sunday has been particularly violent. The Eid al-Fitr holiday on Sunday continued the trend.

Insurgents killed two pairs of brothers with links to the government as well as three NATO service members in

three separate attacks.

In the first attack, a bomb hidden in a cemetery in the southern province of Helmand killed a police chief and his brother who were visiting a family grave for the holiday.

Seven of the men's family

members were wounded in the early-morning blast in the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, said the Helmand deputy police chief, Ghulam Rabbani.

No one claimed responsibility, but the attack was consistent with the Taliban's strategy to target authorities and others who align themselves with the government or international forces. The two men were brothers of a lawmaker for Helmand province, Abdulwaddood Popal, who was not at the cemetery at the time of the blast.

The family was visiting the grave after attending a morning prayer service for the holiday, which ends the month-long Ramadan fasting period.

Later in the western Farah province, gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on the car of an intelligence service official as he was driving home from a family visit, killing him and his brother, who worked for the customs service. □

Three women shot dead on road in central Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Police found the bodies of three women who were shot to death early Saturday with assault rifles on a roadside in the central Mexico state of Morelos.

The women were believed to be between the ages of 20 and 25, though they had not been identified.

Two of the women had their hands tied behind their backs. One was wearing only a blouse.

The Morelos state prosecutors' office said 15 spent shells from assault rifles were found at the scene.

Morelos is just south of Mexico City and has been the scene of drug cartel turf battles involving the remnants of the Beltran Leyva

gang.

In the western state of Michoacan, police found a total of eight bodies in two clumps on the side of a highway.

Four of the bodies were charred beyond recognition in a burned-out sport utility vehicle, said Carlos Arrieta, the spokesman for the Michoacan state prosecutors office. A man's dismembered body was found in several plastic bags near the vehicle.

Several towns away along the same highway, police found the bullet-riddled bodies of three more men.

The area has seen bloody fighting between the Knights Templar cartel and the Jalisco Nueva Generation gang, which is believed to be allied with the Sinaloa cartel. □

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Swimmer Nyad steady in Cuba-Fla. record attempt

PETER ORSI

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Endurance athlete Diana Nyad forged ahead through the Straits of Florida with renewed vigor Sunday in pursuit of a record 103-mile (166-kilometer) unassisted open-water swim without the aid of a shark cage. The 62-year-old Los Angeles woman was said to be comfortable, confident and steady at around 50 strokes per minute after a harrowing night of painful jellyfish encounters — despite a new-and-improved bodysuit she hoped would offer better protection. Nyad was stung four times during the night on the neck, lips, hand and forehead, according to members of her 50-member crew who updated fans through social media.

"Today is more like swimming," one member quoted her as saying, via Twitter. "I don't know what you would call last night ... probably surviving."

At 18 hours into the swim, she had traveled 21.7 miles from Havana. Choppy seas were calmer, and her team reported only a light wind. Nyad had planned to don the bodysuit, which covers her from head to toe except for holes for the eyes, nose and mouth, at night, when jellyfish tend to rise to the surface. But it apparently did not work as well as anticipated.

At least two of the stings were from the dangerous box jellyfish, which forced her to cut short her second of two attempts last year as toxins built up in her system. At one point, with jellyfish particles everywhere in the water, Nyad changed strokes to keep her face out of harm's way.

"There are so many jellyfish," said another tweet. "Diana is swimming backstroke right now leading with the cap-covered part of her head to minimize contact."

"The backstroke is working!" it added.

By day, the jellies receded, and she was able to resume freestyle swimming. Nyad, who turns 63 Wednesday, is making her third at-



In this photo released by Diana Nyad via the Florida Keys News Bureau, endurance swimmer Diana Nyad swims off Havana, Cuba, Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012, as she begins a more than 100-mile trip across the Florida Straits to the Florida Keys. Nyad, who turns 63 on Aug. 22, is trying to be the first swimmer to cross the Straits without a shark cage.

(AP Photo/Christi Barli)

tempt since last summer at a cageless crossing of the Straits of Florida. She also made a failed try with a cage in 1978.

Australian Susie Maroney successfully swam the Straits in 1997, but she used a cage. This June another Australian, Penny Palfrey, made it 79 miles toward Florida without a cage before strong currents forced her to abandon the attempt.

A kayak-borne apparatus shadowing Nyad helps keep sharks at bay by generating a faint electric field that is not noticeable to humans.

A team of handlers is always on alert to dive in and distract any sharks that make it through.

One of those divers was also stung by a jellyfish.

Nyad, goggle-eyed with sun-bleached hair, said before she set out from Havana's Hemingway Marina on Saturday that she had braced herself for pain.

"There's a reason no one's ever done it, but I'm prepared," she said. "I may suffer some, but I'm prepared for that, too."

Nyad has been training for three years and is in peak shape, according to friend and trainer Bonnie Stoll.



U.S. swimmer Diana Nyad adjusts her swimming cap as a woman applies a protective ointment to her skin as she prepares to jump into the water and start her swim to Florida from Havana, Cuba, Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012. Endurance athlete Nyad launched another bid Saturday to set an open-water record by swimming from Havana to the Florida Keys without a protective shark cage.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

The team expects Nyad will take at least 60 hours to complete the swim, meaning she would arrive in the Florida Keys sometime Tuesday.

She takes periodic short breaks to rest, hydrate and eat high-energy foods like peanut butter.

Besides sharks, jellyfish, the elements and the limits of

human endurance, Nyad must contend with the monotony and sensory deprivation inevitable in marathon swimming.

To help, she relies on a mental playlist of about 65 songs mostly "from my generation."

They include classics from the likes of Bob Dylan, the Beatles and Neil Young,

plus Janis Joplin's chart-topping version of "Me and Bobby McGee."

"If I sing that 2,000 times in a row, the whole song, I will get through five hours and 15 minutes," Nyad said in a video posted on her website.

"It's kind of stupid," she added, "but it gets me through." □



Chef Mirko Reeh at Fusion:

Cooking & Singing for his TV Show, with media personality Tabitha Fecunda



Eagle Beach – Popular TV presenter/producer chef Mirko Reeh, a media superstar in his native Germany, who is considered one of Europe's top ten chefs visited Aruba as guest of the Aruba Tourism Authority and Divi Resorts.

On his last night here, the legendary VIP hosted a cooking and tasting show at Fusion, Alhambra Shops, with media

personality Tabitha Fecunda, as the show emcee. Chef Mirko demonstrated a few of his signature recipes, live, with a soup, a salad, and two main courses, a grilled tenderloin and a grilled fish, prepared a la minute, under the stars, and while the cameras rolled, the audience tasted and approved. Fecunda who is the Island Marketing & Promotion Manager

of the Links at Divi Aruba, is also the host of TNT, Tabitha on Television, a popular local program. On Saturday night while Chef Mirko was recording the events for German TV, and singing some German hit songs, between courses, Tabitha and her crew were filming for local consumption. Following an invitation of the Aruba Tourism Authority, Chef Mirko enjoyed a load-

ed five-day agenda here, filming some of his TV show episodes with the intention of promoting Aruba as a culinary destination to his millions of European viewers. Chef Mirko runs cooking schools, operates top-rated restaurants, authors cookbooks, stars in a children cooking show on Nickelodeon and on his main TV program, Chef in a Bacon Coat,

just lost more than 30kg, cooking lean and light dishes with the audiences. Charming, warm, entrepreneurial, and always prepared to laugh, chef Mirko took a big bite out of Aruba and liked it, he will be back for vacation, he says!

During the taping of the show episode, Chef Mirko was greatly assisted by Divi Executive chef, Edwin Geerman. □

Family Green honored at Marriott Surf Club



Recently a group of loyal visitors of Aruba were honored as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between ten and twenty consecutive years. All of the honorees are members of Marriott Surf Club and have been enjoying the Island every year. The honorees were Jack and Karen Green, and Alanna and Jay Green, all resident of Lowell, Massachusetts.

The certificate was presented by Darline S. de Cuba, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, with Karellys Hoevertsz, Front Desk Manager of Marriott Surf Club.

The main reason they return to Aruba is because they consider Aruba to be the Happy Island, the great weather, white sand beach and the local food. □



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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a

perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort

and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled.

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The Carubbian Festival Aruba's Carnival experience every week of the year!

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We encourage you to spend an evening with the locals, and enjoy a taste of our culture at the Carubbian Festival. It's also a great family or group activity!

Package includes:

- Round-trip transportation from your hotel
- Entrance to the festival
- Dinner and beverages
- Entertainment – Carnival show, live music, and more
- A commemorative carnival mask

Price : \$64 per person.
\$32 children 12 years and under.

Where : Main-Street San Nicolas

When : Thursdays from 6 pm to 10 pm

Information: visit your guest services desk in your hotel for more information and tickets.

The Carubbian Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation and Labour. Operated by the Carubbian Foundation.



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Celebrating successful 1st & 2nd quarters of 2012:

Divi Vacation Ownership honors the Best of the Best!



Divi Vacation Ownership celebrated their employees of the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2012. In a beautiful new ballroom at the Alhambra the employees enjoyed a wonderful evening, where their top executives were honored. All the employees have contributed to some amazing numbers in sales for the first half of the year, making us wonder what more they will be doing for the second half of the year!

-The employees who were honored for the 1st quarter were:

Top Sales Executive for Dal Time: Judeska Peterson
 Top Sales Executive for Phoenix: Miguel Daza
 Top In-house Sales Executive Dal Time: Michelle Brokaw
 Top In-house Sales Executive Phoenix: Roselyn Russell
 Top Finance Manager Dal Time: Nikki Simmons

Top Finance Manager Phoenix: Ruben Pietersz
 Top Marketing Executive: Ann Louise John
 Top administrator: Wilfred Maduro

-The employees honored for the 2nd quarter were:



Top Sales Executive for Dal Time: Eduard Henriquez
 Top Sales Executive for Phoenix: Gwendolyn Giel
 Top In-house Sales Executive Dal Time: Iona de Windt
 Top In-house Sales Execu-

tive Phoenix: Roselyn Russell
 Top Finance Manager Dal Time: Nikki Simmons
 Top Finance Manager Phoenix: Elisabeth Guerra
 Top Marketing Executive: Delores Johnson



Top administrator: Rosemary Euson
 The employees enjoyed an evening filled with good food and drinks from their wonderful restaurants Ginger and Fusion, with lots of laughter. □

St. Lucia impresses in its inaugural year hosting the Digicel Kick Start sport clinics

Led by England and Liverpool football legend, John Barnes, the Digicel Kick Start Clinics came to St. Lucia this week for the first time in the programme's five years – and impressed Barnes with the talent on display. "Given it was the first time St. Lucia hosted a leg of the Digicel Kick Start Clinics, I was very impressed. The set up and approach was spot on and, while the quantity of talent was not as high as other countries, I am very happy with my chosen three boys for the Digicel Academy and I think they will go toe-to-toe with their peers when they all meet in

Barbados," said Barnes. He continues; "The pitch was fantastic and the boys were really energised having just completed a Digicel Soccerama last weekend, so the energy was high and the enthusiasm palpable. What I stressed to the boys is that, while they have the ability, they must now apply the discipline and attitude and they will get the most from the Digicel Academy in Barbados this October." The three boys chosen from St. Lucia, Ridel Stanislaus, Luc Millar and Shadrach Henry (all 15 years-old), will join their peers from across



The chosen three boys from the St. Lucia leg of the Digicel Kick Start Clinics, Ridel Stanislaus, Luc Millar and Shadrach Henry, pose with Head Coach, John Barnes and Digicel St. Lucia Country Manager, Holly Hughes-McNamara.

eight other countries in the Caribbean, Central America and the United States at the week-long Digicel Academy in October this year. The region's top talent will be put through their paces by coaches from Chelsea FC in Barbados where they will experience what life is like as a professional footballer. Speaking on securing his place in the Academy, Shadrach Henry, said; "I am so happy that I was chosen by Digicel and this has been so emotional for me because my recently-deceased father would have been so proud of me. □



Wyndham Championship to resume on Monday

Chad Campbell keeps away from the rain during the final round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012. Sergio Garcia will have a one-shot lead when play resumes.

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Greg Biffle celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the Pure Michigan 400 Race auto race at Michigan International Speedway, Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012, in Brooklyn Mich.

Associated Press

Biffle wins at Michigan when Johnson's car falters

NOAH TRISTER
AP Sports Writer

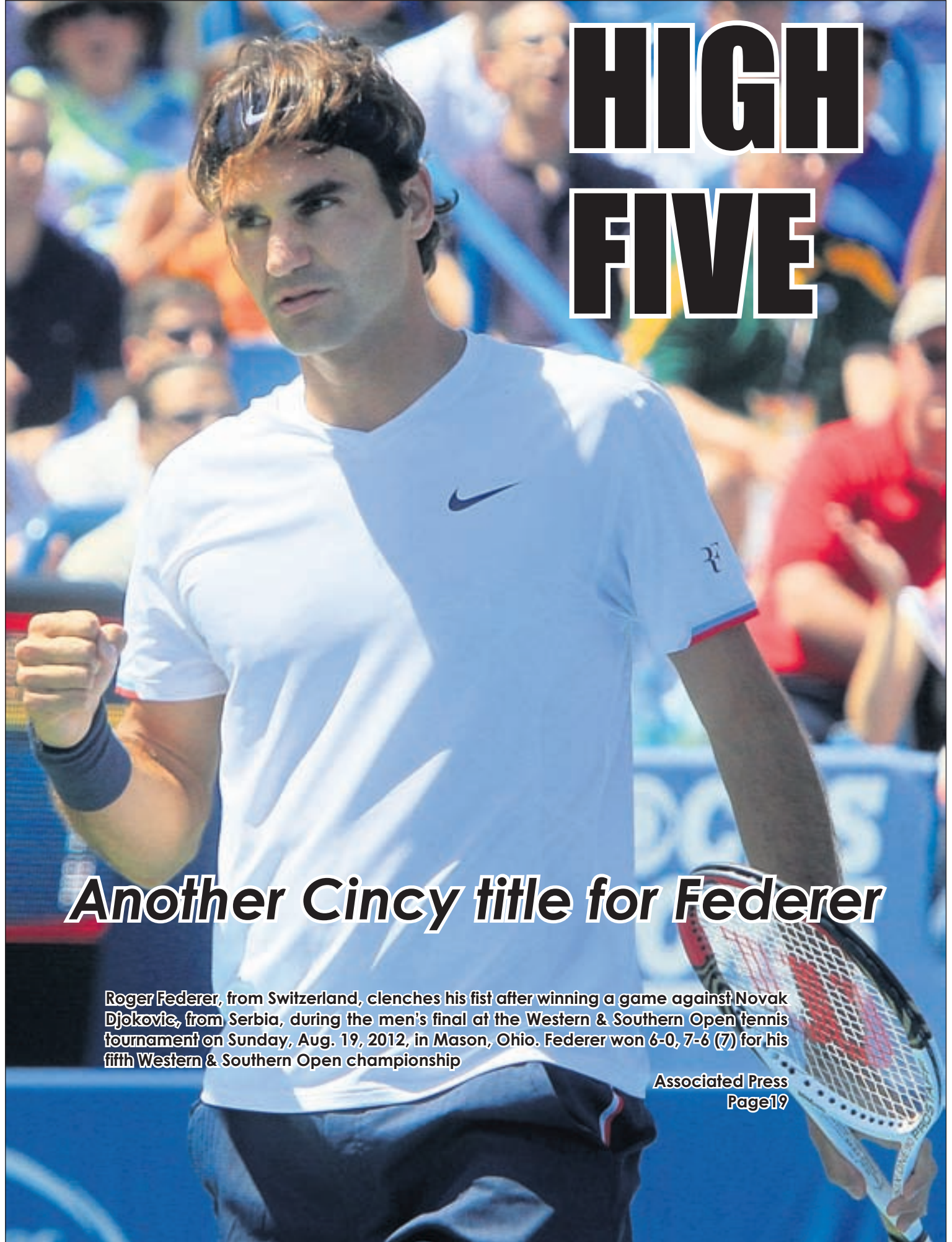
BROOKLYN, Michigan (AP)

— Greg Biffle won the NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Michigan International Speedway on Sunday when leader Jimmie Johnson left the track because of engine trouble with six laps left.

Johnson started the race from the back because of an engine change, but made it all the way to the lead and looked as though he had the superior car after passing Brad Keselowski on lap 191 of 200. But Johnson couldn't hold on, and Biffle took advantage.

After Johnson faltered, there was a caution for oil on the track. Biffle held off Keselowski by 0.416 seconds in the green-white-checked finish.

Continued on Page 17



HIGH FIVE

Another Cincy title for Federer

Roger Federer, from Switzerland, clenches his fist after winning a game against Novak Djokovic, from Serbia, during the men's final at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament on Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012, in Mason, Ohio. Federer won 6-0, 7-6 (7) for his fifth Western & Southern Open championship

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Rain forces delay at Wyndham with Garcia leading

JOEDY MCCREARY

AP Sports Writer

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP) — It's been four

years since Sergio Garcia's last PGA Tour victory. He'll have to wait one more day before he can try to finish this one off.

And a downpour at the Wyndham Championship meant another day of uncertainty for others on the playoff bubble.

Garcia had the lead at 15 under through four holes Sunday when the final round in the Tour's last event before the FedEx Cup playoffs was suspended for the day because of heavy rain.

Tim Clark, Jason Dufner and Bud Cauley were at 14 under through varying stages of their rounds, and 38 players — half the field — were still on the course when play was stopped.

After waiting roughly 2 hours, 20 minutes, officials decided to bring them

back to Sedgefield Country Club at 9 a.m. Monday to crown a champion and figure out who qualifies for the playoffs and who doesn't. It will be the first Monday finish in Greensboro since 1983.

Tour officials said more than 2 inches of rain fell on the course since Saturday night and Mark Russell, the Tour's vice president of rules and competition, said the 15th hole became "unplayable."

The stoppage came at 3:10 p.m. when the showers picked up, and it was expected to be only a brief delay, with the players initially staying on the course. Officials reversed that decision and brought them in a short while later.

Then, when the initially announced restart time of 5 p.m. was pushed back twice — first to 5:30 p.m., then 6 p.m. — it made it virtually impossible for the final pairing to finish 14 holes



Sergio Garcia, of Spain, puts on the first green during the final round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012.

Associated Press

Willie Woods wins Champions Tour event

ENDICOTT, New York (AP) — Willie Wood won the Dick's Sporting Goods Open on Sunday for his first Champions Tour title, beating Michael Allen with a par on the first hole of a playoff.

Wood made a long birdie putt on the final hole of regulation to match Allen, a two-time winner this year, at 13-under 203 on the En-Joie Golf Course. Wood closed with a 66, and Allen shot 66.

In the playoff on the par-4 18th hole, Allen's drive that went way left, essentially ending his chances.

Woods earned \$270,000 for the victory, his first since he won the 1996 Deposit Guaranty Golf Classic for his lone PGA Tour title.

Joey Sindelar, Kenny Perry, Tom Lehman and Brad Faxon finished a stroke back. Sindelar had a 66, Perry and Lehman shot 67, and Faxon had a 71. □

in the roughly 2 hours of remaining daylight and guaranteed a Monday finish. The decision to suspend things was announced at 5:28 p.m.

"It started raining and just wouldn't stop. The golf course got to the point where it was saturated," Russell said. "We got to a point where we knew we couldn't finish ... so we made a decision that we would let it drain tonight, come back in the morning

and be in position to resume play at 9 o'clock."

Clark, who started the day a stroke behind Garcia after letting a few birdie chances get away late in Round 3, birdied two of his first four holes to match Garcia at 15 under. A bogey on the par-5 No. 5 — the most frequently eagled hole on the course — dropped him back a stroke, and he was in the fairway on No. 6 when the rain delay came. "Obviously, we'd all like to

continue playing," Clark said. "You get into a rhythm out there, and you'd like to keep going. But it's going to be the same for all of us. It's just a tough situation."

Garcia began the day at 14 under and had three pars sandwiched around a birdie on the par-3 No. 3. He was preparing for a 40-yard chip when play stopped.

Garcia, who hasn't won on Tour since the 2008 Players Championship, also wants a spot on the European Ryder Cup team. The 10 automatic qualifiers will be set following the Johnny Walker Invitational with captain Jose Maria Olazabal making two captain's picks.

Garcia certainly made a case for inclusion with his play this week, following his second-round 63 — his lowest round on Tour in a decade — with a 66 that gave him a one-stroke lead entering the final round.

While Garcia continued his chase for that spot, other players were trying to secure a spot in the playoffs that begin later this week. The top 125 on the points list qualify for The Barclays at Bethpage Black.

Heath Slocum, who arrived at No. 128, was at 11 under through 13 holes and was at No. 120 on the projected standings.

Every stroke was critical for Y.E. Yang, who came to Greensboro at No. 129 and needed a strong final round to push his way into the postseason.

He finished at 6 under following a third straight 69 and was projected to miss the playoffs at No. 127 when play stopped.



Federer beats Djokovic for 5th Cincinnati title

JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Top-ranked Roger Federer won a record fifth Cincinnati title Sunday, dominating second-ranked Novak Djokovic from the outset of a 6-0, 7-6 (7) win for the Western & Southern Open championship.

It was the first time in the tournament's history that the top two played for the title. From the start, it was no match.

Federer improved to 5-0 in Cincinnati finals and tied Rafael Nadal for the most Masters titles with 21.

Nadal dropped out of the tournament with a sore knee that has sidelined him indefinitely.

"A record break — always something special when that happens," Federer said.

Djokovic won the Rogers Cup in Toronto last Sunday and was trying for his first win in Cincinnati, where he reached the finals last year but had to quit the title match against Andy Murray because of a sore shoulder. He seemed to be running on fumes in his second final in two weeks.

"I had a fantastic week in Toronto," Djokovic said. "I came in here and didn't really expect to get this far, get all the way to the title." By contrast, the 31-year-old Swiss star skipped the Rogers Cup, leaving him fresher Sunday.

Federer and Djokovic rarely have such lopsided days together. The Swiss star won the first set in only 20 minutes, allowing Djokovic just 10 points. It was the first time in their 28 career

matches that one of them took a set 6-0.

The Serb never fully recovered, snapping his streak of 15 straight wins on hard courts.

"I made a lot of double-faults," Djokovic said. "I was just trying to win that first game and get things moving."

It was the seventh time that they'd played for a tournament title.

They split the previous six, with Federer winning the only Grand Slam championship match among them — the U.S. Open in 2007.

Their rivalry took an interesting turn last year.

Djokovic beat Federer in a five-set semifinal at the U.S. Open, then beat him again in the semis at Rome and the French Open this year. Federer regained the upper hand by defeating the Serb — in the semifinals again — at Wimbledon last month.

Both reached the final in a dominating style — neither lost their serve or a set during the week.

Federer held his 38 service games, facing only three break points. Djokovic held serve for 31 games, overcoming 10 break points.

Federer put an end to that right away.

Helped by a double-fault, Federer broke Djokovic's serve to start the match. Then, helped by two more double-faults, he broke him again to go up 3-0. Djokovic went to his chair at the break and grabbed a different racket, hoping to change the flow of the match.

Made no difference whatsoever. □

Novak Djokovic, left, from Serbia, and Roger Federer, from Switzerland, pose with their trophies after the men's final at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament on Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press



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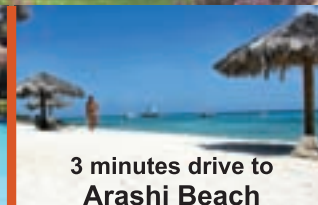
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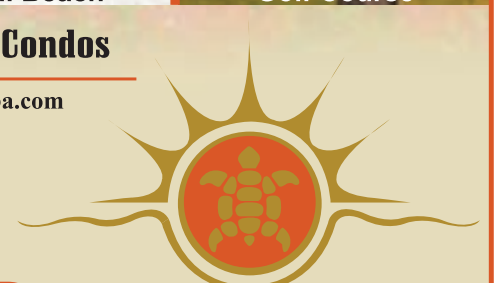
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Young helps Rangers rout Blue Jays 11-2

TORONTO (AP) — Matt Harrison set the tone with a terrific start, and the best offense in baseball took care of the rest.

Michael Young hit a three-run homer and added a two-run double to help the Texas Rangers beat the slumping Toronto Blue Jays 11-2 on Sunday.

"We really fed off of (Harrison) today," Young said. "Usually when you have a good offensive performance you feed off the starting pitcher."

Harrison (14-7) pitched eight strong innings to match his career high for wins, set last season. The left-hander allowed two runs and two hits, struck out seven and walked one.

"Tremendous," Rangers manager Ron Washington said of Harrison. "He worked fast, he got quick outs, he pounded the strike zone, he used all his pitches."

David Murphy also connected and doubled twice, and Geovany Soto had three hits as baseball's highest scoring team passed 600 runs for the season. The AL West leaders sit



Toronto Blue Jays catcher Yan Gomes, center, misses the tag on Texas Rangers' David Murphy, left, as home plate umpire Bill Welke, right, makes the call during third-inning baseball game action in Toronto, Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012.

atop the majors with 606 runs scored.

"Offense is always a hot-button issue in Texas with the culture we've built up with offense over the years," Young said, "but we're no different than any other team in the sense that starting pitching is always the biggest key. We

get that kind of effort, we like our chances."

Held to four runs while splitting the first two games of the series, Texas pounded out 19 hits in the finale, two shy of their season high. Harrison entered with an 0-2 record and a 12.00 ERA in five career games against Toronto, includ-

ing a loss May 2 at Rogers Centre when he allowed a season-high eight runs in 3 1-3 innings.

A slight tweak to his windup didn't deliver results in the bullpen, but things came together once Harrison took the mound.

"I kind of turned more toward first base out of my

windup," Harrison said. "I was having trouble staying over the rubber and this helped out a lot."

"I was a little worried warming up today because I was all over the place," he added. "I probably threw 20 balls in the dirt. It ended up working out so I can stick with it."

Harrison became the first lefty in Rangers history to win 10 road starts in a season. He's 10-4 in 15 outings away from home, including two shutouts.

"The most important thing was my mechanics and I was able to hone those in pretty quick," he said. "It definitely kept me in the strike zone more and built confidence, and I was able to be more aggressive with all my pitches."

Young's fourth homer in the fifth gave him as many RBIs with one swing as he had collected in 17 previous games in August. The drive also snapped a career-long 88-game drought between home runs. Young last went deep in a win May 7 at Baltimore.

"I saw him use his hands the way he's able to," Washington said. "Before he had a lot of body and today it was hands. Hopefully he's about to come around."

Murphy went 3 for 4 with a walk and hit a solo drive in the ninth against rookie Chad Jenkins for his 11th homer of the season. Mark Lowe completed the two-hitter as Texas won for the third time in four games.

"David has been swinging the bat extremely well," Washington said of Murphy. Mike McCoy hit a solo homer and drove in two runs as the Blue Jays lost for the 16th time in 21 games. Toronto went 3-7 on a 10-game homestand against the AL's three division leaders, New York, Chicago and Texas. "(Texas) is a team you can't make mistakes against," Blue Jays catcher Yan Gomes said. "One through nine they can hurt you." Trailing 1-0 on McCoy's groundout, Texas took the lead in the third when Soto and Mitch Moreland hit back-to-back RBI singles. □

Biffle

Continued from Page 17

Kasey Kahne finished third in the 400-mile race, followed by Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Marcos Ambrose. Biffle took over the points lead, while Johnson dropped from first to fourth. Pole sitter Mark Martin was sailing along in the lead for most for the first 65 laps before his race ended in scary fashion. Bobby Labonte went into a spin while Martin was coming up from behind, and Martin went sliding off toward pit road. His car crashed frighteningly into the end of a short, narrow barrier on the interior side of pit road.

The side of Martin's car was essentially impaled by the end of the wall, just in front of the left rear tire and dangerously close to the driver's seat. But in the smoky scene that followed, Martin was able to get out and walk away.

"I really feel that was a freak accident. I'm not sure you can ever completely fix something like that," Martin said. "That was a pretty freak angle that I got it. I'm not sure what you can do. It could have been really bad if I would have got into that hole a little deeper where it would have caught me in the door instead of the crush area back there."

Johnson started from the back, and so did Earnhardt, who was using a backup car after a mishap in practice Saturday. The two Hendrick Motorsports teammates made a solid run of it, but it was Biffle and his No. 16 Ford that emerged at the end.

It was Biffle's second win of the year and third career victory at MIS. Keselowski, racing in his home state, settled for second place for the second straight week. Earnhardt won at MIS in June, snapping a four-year



Greg Biffle crosses the finish line to win the NASCAR Sprint Cup Pure Michigan 400 auto race at Michigan International Speedway Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012, in Brooklyn, Mich.

Associated Press

losing streak. The last driver to sweep the two Cup races at MIS was Labonte in 1995. Tony Stewart and Jeff Gordon both had motor problems, finishing 32nd and 28th. Gordon, Kyle Busch and Carl Edwards entered the race on the

outside looking in for the Chase for the Sprint Cup, which starts next month. Those three didn't do much to change that. Edwards finished sixth and Busch was 13th. There are three more races before the Chase starts. □

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'As Rose watches, Jeter keeps closing in

JOSHUA PRAGER

© 2012 New York Times

Derek Jeter stood on first base. His single in Seattle had pulled the rookie to 4,255 hits behind baseball's career leader, Pete Rose. The ball was retrieved. He was 20 years old.

Jeter is now 38 and a baseball immortal. Even before he steps to the plate for his next at-bat, he is rounding third and heading for home — more than three-quarters of the way to 4,256. Jeter is now 1,008 hits behind Rose. A little more than thousand hits. Can he do it? Jeter amassed his fastest 1,000 in 749 games, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. His slowest, meantime, took 801 games over five seasons, a stretch that ended this summer. Barring the miraculous, Jeter would be far slower still to the next thousand. That would put him at age 44 or 45 when he reaches Rose, if he is still playing. It is no coincidence that in the history of baseball, only one man had 1,000 hits after turning 38: Rose himself.

Still, in this, his 18th season, Jeter has found his inner rookie; he is batting .317 and leading all of baseball in hits with 160. (He also has the most at-bats.) And the four primary factors that beget hits — beyond monumental talent — are all in Jeter's favor.

First, Jeter is in great physical shape and has sustained just one bad injury in 18 years. Second, he plays (and always has) toward the top of a lineup on a great offensive team, which gets him more at-bats. Third, he hustles each at-bat. Fourth, he plays shortstop, a position that demands just modest offense and so, his



New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter hits a fly ball to right field against the Minnesota Twins, at Yankee Stadium in New York. Jeter needs a little more than 1,000 hits to catch the career hit leader, Pete Rose, and his record 4,256 hits.

(Jason Szenes/The New York Times)

legend aside, he will be less prone to be replaced even if his production declines — so long as he plays an adequate shortstop.

But that last proviso is a big one. Shortstop is a demanding position made for young legs. Just three men have played more games at shortstop than Jeter.

Omar Vizquel has played the most, 2,709. But Vizquel, the senior Blue Jay, who will retire come autumn at the age of 45, has played just nine of those games this season and 34 at five other positions. Vizquel, the oldest ever to play shortstop, said there comes a disconnect between the mind, which thinks it can make a play, and the body, which can't. He said that Jeter "just has to wait for his body to let him know."

Jeter has played 2,498 games at shortstop, 43 at designated hitter and zero elsewhere. Looking ahead, where should he play?

There are many opinions. The retired pitcher Jim Kaat, a baseball analyst

ter will render his use as DH nonsensical.

Third base, he says, might fit Jeter (were Alex Rodriguez to DH more), as might left field. But Kaat said he believed that left field would prove too much ground for Jeter to cover well.

Brian Cashman, the Yankees' general manager, does not seem so sure.

"I'm not proposing this," Cashman was careful to state first, "but his skill set, his athleticism, is like a Robin Yount." Yount, of course, moved to center field from shortstop.

But Yount left shortstop at 29, and Cashman says he will not know what Jeter is capable of and where he might fit best until his contract expires next season. (Jeter will have the option to remain with the team in 2014 at a substantial pay cut.)

Whatever position he might move to, it will be a difficult decision. On the one hand, Jeter is hitting very well and fielding adequately, and

the mere suggestion of shooing him from short borders on blasphemy.

On the other hand, in the history of baseball, according to Elias, just three men age 40 or older have played at least 100 games at shortstop in a season: Honus Wagner, Luke Appling and Vizquel. And so someday soon it will be apparent to even Jeter that if he wants to keep hitting, he will have to yield his position.

Such prognostication, of course, is predicated on two assumptions: that Jeter will wish to keep playing when his contract expires at age 40, and that the Yankees and their captain will come to agreement on a new deal.

At least one Jeter fan seems sure that they will. Says Pete Rose: "He's not the kind of guy who's going to play for another team."

Rose was that kind of guy. He played for three teams (at six positions). Anywhere to keep getting hits. □

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Salmonella outbreak in 20 states kills 2 and sickens 141

MARC SANTORA
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An outbreak of salmonella infections across 20 states has resulted in two deaths and sickened 141 people in recent weeks, state and federal authorities said.

The source of the outbreak appears to be cantaloupes from a farm in southwestern Indiana, the authorities said. They urged consumers who have purchased melons grown in that area to discard them.

The outbreak has been most severe in Kentucky, where 50 people have been infected and the two deaths occurred.

People infected with salmonella develop diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps within 12 to 72 hours after exposure, according to a statement Friday from the federal Food and Drug Administration's Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation Network. Most people recover within a week.

However, in some cases the diarrhea is severe and the infection can spread from the intestines to the blood stream and then to other parts of the body. If not treated quickly, it can lead to death.

Each year, about 400 people in the U.S. die from acute salmonellosis, according to the FDA.

The earliest known illness in the current outbreak occurred July 7, and those

back to a farm in Indiana. "As a result of the initial investigations by the state



An outbreak of salmonella infections across 20 states has resulted in two deaths and sickened 141 people in recent weeks, state and federal authorities said. The source of the outbreak appears to be cantaloupes from a farm in southwestern Indiana, the authorities said.

(Photo)

infected range in age from younger than 1 to 92, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is working with the state and local authorities to stem the outbreak.

Health officials interviewed 24 people stricken with salmonella since the start of the outbreak, and 18 of them reported eating cantaloupe in the last week, the CDC said.

In Kentucky, health officials isolated a strain of salmonella from two cantaloupes taken from a local retail outlet and traced them

health departments in Indiana and Kentucky, a farm in southwestern Indiana has contacted its distributors, which reach outside Indiana into other states, and is withdrawing its cantaloupe from the marketplace," the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement.

"The farm has agreed to cease distributing cantaloupes for the rest of the growing season."

Last year, a multistate outbreak of listeriosis that killed 29 people was linked to cantaloupes from a farm in Colorado.

Tips for searching for nursing homes

CHARLES ORNSTEIN
© 2012 Los Angeles Daily News

We've designed Nursing Home Inspect to make it fast and easy to search thousands of recent government inspection reports from around the country, most since the beginning of 2011. Following are some tips to help you get the best results.

First, a little background. The reports come from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which put them online in July. Unlike the CMS site, however, Nursing Home Inspect allows searches by keyword and city, as well as a home's name. Also unlike CMS, our app allows you to search across all the reports at once. As of today, the underlying database covers nearly 118,000 deficiencies at 14,565 homes. There are more than 15,000 nursing homes in the U.S., and as CMS releases newer inspection reports in the future, we plan to add them. Our search engine looks through the narrative portion of the inspection reports – the part where inspectors describe conditions in the home and any deficiencies they discovered. This is where the details are. It's best to keep two things in mind while searching. First, the results

are a snapshot and not necessarily comprehensive for homes nationwide. Second, because inspectors may write up their reports differently, it is wise to try several search terms to be sure you're getting the most complete results.

For example, take a common problem like bed sores, which can develop if a resident is confined to bed and staff members do not turn the person often. Searching for the phrase "pressure sore" returns 2,121 results. Searching for the phrase "bed sore" returns 1,946 results, some of them duplicates. But other words that also can return deficiencies related to bed sores include: "decubitus, purulent and pus," as well as "stage iii" and "stage iv" (phrases that describe the most serious and dangerous sores, but can also describe cancer progression). Another example: "sexual assaults." Though uncommon in nursing homes, 88 reports include "rape" and 120 include "sexual assault" (there is some overlap). A broader search for the word "sexual" yields far more results, 787.

Some other searches that piqued our interest were: "cigarette" and "burn" (found patients who were burned when allowed to smoke without supervision); "conviction" (found nursing home staff with criminal records); "ignore," "mistreat" and "rude" (found residents who believed they had been mistreated).

A search for the words "terminate" and "suspend" often produces results involving nursing home staff who were disciplined for alleged misconduct. □

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Next wave in rescues: Remote-control 'lifeguards'

MICHELLE R. SMITH

Associated Press

WESTERLY, Rhode Island (AP) — Think of a lifeguard and you might conjure up images of sunburned teenagers working a summer job. A new and relatively inexpensive lifesaving device could change that.

Meet EMILY, a remote-controlled lifeguard. It looks like a buoy, but it's a small watercraft fitted with a flotation device. It can go up to 22 mph (35 kph) and can get to people more quickly, and in some cases more safely, than any human.

It's being used by a handful of communities. Last month, it was used in its first rescue. "In the day and age of shrinking budgets and the



Misquamicut, R.I., Fire Chief Louis Misto, left, holds a line attached to the EMILY remote-control lifesaving device as it propels itself in the water and away from the shore at Old Town Beach, in Westerly, R.I. EMILY, an acronym for Emergency Integrated Lifesaving Lanyard, is a small watercraft fitted with a flotation device and can go up to 22 mph, allowing it to get to people more quickly, and in some cases more safely, than any human.

(AP Photo/Michelle R. Smith)

availability of personnel, this is just another thing we can use," said Joshua Williams, chief of the Depoe Bay Fire District in Oregon, which performed the rescue with it July 15. "It's proven itself by saving a father and a son. It's really all the proof that we need."

EMILY stands for Emergency Integrated Lifesaving Lanyard. It's a little over 4 feet long (1.2 meters long), weighs 25 pounds (11 kilograms) and costs about \$10,000. It's made by Hydronalix, a Green Valley, Arizona, company established in 2009.

If a swimmer is struggling, a lifeguard or anyone else can put battery-powered EMILY in the water and, with a remote control, send it

through even rough waves to help. Some locations attach an emergency radio so they can instruct panicked swimmers on what to do. EMILY can't bring swimmers back to shore, but it can keep them safe until rescuers get there, or be attached to a rope so rescuers can pull EMILY and anyone holding on back in. In Los Angeles County, the lifeguards made famous by the TV series "Baywatch" use EMILY to shoo people away from rip currents, said Rori Marston of Hydronalix. EMILY doesn't replace a lifeguard. Someone must be on shore to operate EMILY, and lifeguards have skills EMILY can't replicate. EMILY also can't be used if a swimmer is unconscious. □

Soft to cushion a phone, hard when it needs to be

© 2012 New York Times

The supershock-absorbent material called non-Newtonian polymer inspires a lot of "don't try this at home" stunts, like getting whacked in the head with a shovel through a layer of the stuff.

But these materials are also used in protective clothing for skiers and motorcyclists, and — no surprise here — cases for phones.

A company called Tech21 from Britain has been producing protective cases using the polymer D30 for T-Mobile, but in May it spun off its own line.

These materials, also known generically as "rate-dependent materials," work because their molecules freeze in place when struck hard but are pliant when moved gently — just like water, which is a rate-dependent material of

a sort. If you lower yourself into a bath there is little resistance. But slap the water hard with the flat of your hand and it will leave your palm stinging.

Tech21 has put D30 in cases for a variety of phones and some tablets and e-readers. Most of the cases are like the bumpers you see on iPhones, a protective strip of material that surrounds the outer edges. The D30 shows as an orange stripe on the part of the case where the company says a phone is most likely to take a jolt. A future case will also have a D30 pad in the back.

The phone cases range in price from \$30 for the Impact Band to \$136 for the underwater Submariner case. When it comes to product stunts, though, you have to hand it to a company called G-Form, which also uses rate-

dependent polymers in its products. It recently had BASE jumpers drop an iPhone from 1,000 feet to demonstrate the effectiveness of its padding.

— ROY FURCHGOTT
THE ENEMY COMBATANT IS CLOSE. HEAR THAT TWIG SNAP?

Astro Gaming has long designed premium headsets for video game aficionados, and its latest, the A50 wireless headset, updates the device for fans.

Designed with comfort and functionality in mind, the headset appears bulky but is actually light and flexible. And the Dolby 7.1 surround sound is crystal clear. You can hear every footstep of your enemy combatants and every shell casing dropped from a fired gun, all delivered over a 5.8 GHz wireless connection. □

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NY regulator has friends, foes after bank deal

MICHAEL VIRTANEN
Associated Press

ALBANY, New York (AP) —

New York financial regulator Benjamin Lawsky, an Ivy League ex-prosecutor and top lieutenant to Gov. Andrew Cuomo, shook a record \$340 million settlement this week from a major British bank accused of money-laundering for Iran, earning both praise for his aggressive approach and criticism from those who saw it as a publicity grab. Despite the sniping from banks, other regulators and the financial press, ex-colleagues said the 42-year-old married father of two is unlikely to back off. Like others in the Cuomo administration, he's a team player who works in concert with the popular Democratic governor who appointed him. "Banks are upset with Lawsky because he's clearly put down a marker that he's going to be an aggressive regulator who defends the interests of New York state in a manner that goes beyond the enablement of the federal regulators in re-

cent years," said Neil Barofsky, former inspector general of the federal Troubled Asset Relief Program that followed 2007's market collapse.

He and Lawsky were assistant U.S. attorneys in Manhattan and worked together later on a Bank of America case when Lawsky was a special assistant to then-New York Attorney General Cuomo.

In the Standard Chartered case, Lawsky said the bank laundered \$250 billion for Iran, in violation of U.S. trading sanctions, leaving the U.S. financial system "vulnerable to terrorists" in order to reap hundreds of millions in profits.

He threatened to revoke the bank's New York license to halt its \$190 billion-a-day currency clearing business in one of the world's financial capitals. Whether the civil settlement with Standard Chartered is just a business cost for the global institution, another drop in a bucket of financial penalties that have failed to curb malfeasance by major in-



Benjamin Lawsky, superintendent of the New York State Department of Financial Services, speaks in Albany, N.Y. Although he endures sniping from banks, other regulators and the financial media, ex-colleagues say that the top lieutenant in the Cuomo administration is unlikely to let up on New York banks accused of laundering money for Iran.

(AP Photo/Mike Groll)

stitutions, is an open question.

In 2010, Goldman Sachs agreed to pay \$550 million and reform its business practices to settle SEC charges that it misled investors in a subprime mortgage product as the U.S. housing market was starting to collapse.

In 2002, then-New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, the SEC and other regulators reached settlements with 10 investment banks for more than \$1.4 billion over charges of undue influence on securities research at brokerage firms.

Standard Chartered had been negotiating for months on a settlement with the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve, the Justice Department and the Manhattan district attorney's office, which had settled similar cases for \$1.8 billion over the previous three years with ING Bank, Barclay's Lloyd's and Credit Suisse. Standard Chartered said those talks continue. □

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Heineken raises its bid for Tiger beer to \$4.47 billion



A truck driver delivers Heineken beer and other drinks in New York. Heineken NV has raised its bid for a controlling stake in Tiger Beer maker Asia Pacific Breweries to \$4.47 billion, hoping to ward off a rival bid.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Dutch brewer Heineken NV has raised its bid for a controlling stake in Tiger Beer maker Asia Pacific Breweries to \$4.47 billion, hoping to ward off a rival bid.

Singapore conglomerate Fraser and Neave agreed early Saturday to sell its 39.7 percent stake in APB to Heineken, which would give the Dutch brewer 81.6 percent of APB.

Heineken thought it had sealed the deal with a \$4.23 billion bid in July, but Thai Beverage then offered Fraser and Neave 55 Singapore dollars (\$43.91) per share for a 7.3 percent stake in APB — better than Heineken's 50 Singapore dollars (\$39.92) per share bid. Heineken's new bid is 53 Singapore dollars (\$42.31), but it covers Fraser and Neave's whole stake.

Saturday's deal includes a \$47 million break fee for Heineken. □

British lawmakers criticize ex-Barclays CEO

DAVID STRINGER
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Former Barclays CEO Bob Diamond offered a "highly selective" account to a parliamentary hearing on the banking rate-fixing scandal, British lawmakers said Saturday in a highly critical report.

In its report regarding manipulation of a key interbank interest rate, Parliament's Treasury committee demanded sweeping changes to regulation of the banking industry, calling for authorities to get wider powers to prosecute offenders. Barclays has been fined \$453 million by U.S. and British agencies for feeding false data which went into calculations of

the London interbank offered rate, known as LIBOR, a market index that influences the costs of a range of financial instruments, including home mortgages. The committee criticized both the Bank of England and the Financial Services Authority over failures to uncover the scandal sooner, and said it was highly unlikely that the practice of rate-fixing was confined to one bank.

"The sustained rigging of a crucial benchmark rate has done great damage to the U.K.'s reputation. Public trust in banks is at an all-time low," committee Chairman Andrew Tyrie said. "Urgent improvements, both to the way banks are run and the

way they are regulated, is needed if public and market confidence is to be restored. Tyrie said his committee was calling for higher fines for firms that fail to cooperate with regulators, a tightening of laws to make it easier to prosecute rate-fixing offenses, and stronger governance from the Bank of England — which was criticized as naive and "relatively inactive," over manipulation of the LIBOR rate.

In evidence given to the panel at a hearing in July, Diamond appeared to suggest that a Bank of England executive had encouraged Barclays to manipulate rate data — a charge the bank has denied. □

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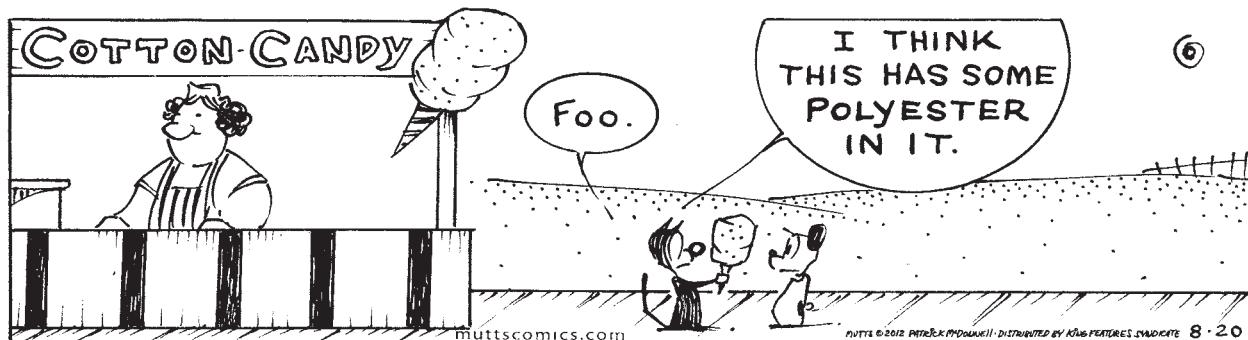
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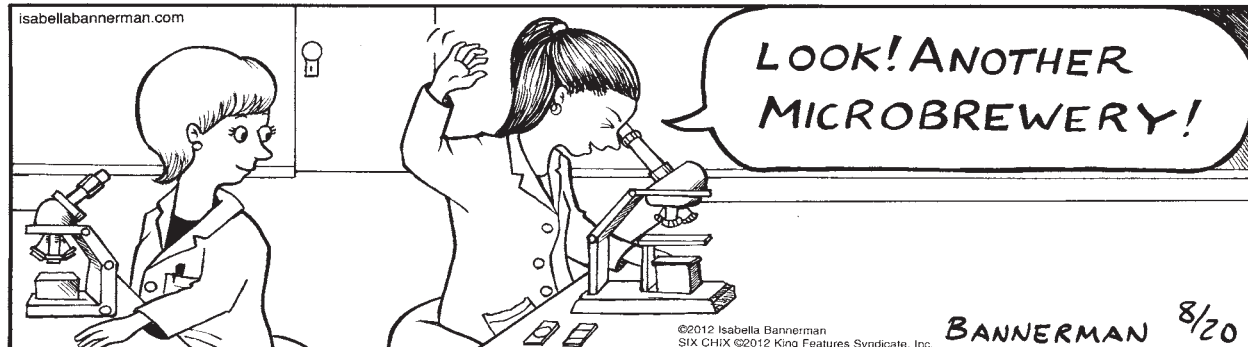
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				9	5		2			
3				4				6		
1	5	8				2			6	
	9				7			4		
7				8				5	1	3
	2					8				1
			7		3	6				
				5		4	7			

Difficulty Level ★

8/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

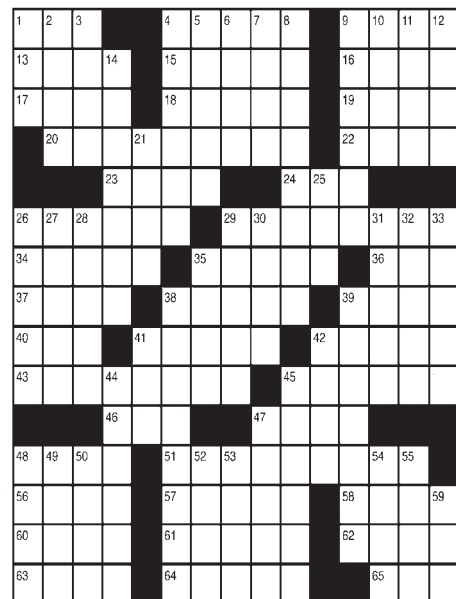
5	4	6	2	1	3	7	8	9
1	3	7	5	9	8	6	2	4
2	9	8	4	6	7	5	1	3
7	2	5	6	8	4	3	9	1
3	8	1	9	7	2	4	5	6
4	6	9	3	5	1	2	7	8
9	1	4	7	3	5	8	6	2
6	5	3	8	2	9	1	4	7
8	7	2	1	4	6	9	3	5

ACROSS

- 1 Groove
- 4 Isolated bits of land in the sea
- 9 Rate of speed
- 13 October's gem
- 15 Martin or Allen
- 16 Computer screen image
- 17 Heavy book
- 18 Come apart; fray
- 19 Air pollution
- 20 Smooth-skinned peach
- 22 TV's "To _ the Truth"
- 23 "My Country, 'Tis of _"
- 24 Pigeon's sound
- 26 Handbook
- 29 Food poisoning
- 34 Decorate
- 35 Strength
- 36 Scottish denial
- 37 Apple's center
- 38 Showed courage
- 39 Money owed
- 40 Upper limb
- 41 Attempted
- 42 Syrup flavor
- 43 Covered wagons' direction
- 45 Sheen
- 46 Argument
- 47 Alan Alda TV series
- 48 One of the Three Bears
- 51 Surrounding and assailing
- 56 Actor Baldwin
- 57 Without companions
- 58 Tidy
- 60 Speed contest
- 61 Group of pupils
- 62 Strong wind
- 63 _ for; requests
- 64 24 _ gold
- 65 Galloped

DOWN

- 1 Deteriorate
- 2 Touch _; mention briefly
- 3 Make gentle
- 4 Tel Aviv, _
- 5 Fixed gaze
- 6 Mr. Strauss
- 7 Not _ close; totally wrong
- 8 Chose
- 9 Handgun
- 10 High point
- 11 "Groovy!" to today's kids
- 12 School subj.
- 14 Professor's talk
- 21 Other _; besides
- 25 "...Give us this day _ daily bread..."
- 26 Showy parrot
- 27 Venerate
- 28 Standards
- 29 Disinterested
- 30 Was in the red
- 31 Bumbling
- 32 Mercury sedan of recent years
- 33 "Lovely Rita, _ maid..."
- 35 Twosome



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/20/12

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

VILE	UTTER	CANE
EDEN	NIECE	ASIA
SLAT	DEALS	RAGS
TEDIOUS	ATROPHY	
TIE	VISIT	
ATOLL	NOR	DIANA
TIRE	MAY	REDCAP
IMA	REBATES	HIP
LETHAL	GOD	TELL
TREAD	BEE	POSSE
BIKER	MAD	
MOTIONS	PADDLES	
APET	EIDER	LORI
LISA	ADORE	ERIN
TEST	DECKS	REEK

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8/20/12

- 38 Disadvantage
- 39 _ off; leaving quickly
- 41 Deuce
- 42 Is required to
- 44 Vestiges; leftover signs
- 45 Most recent
- 47 High-IQ group
- 48 Prefix for legal or medic
- 49 Word of lament
- 50 Actor Gregory
- 52 Ms. Fitzgerald
- 53 Fly high
- 54 Within reach
- 55 Celebration
- 59 Three & seven

When the lender buys your insurance, a call is in order

PAUL SULLIVAN

© 2012 New York Times

Force-placed insurance isn't high up on most people's list of mortgage worries, not when so many people are in danger of losing their homes. But it's been high up on mine ever since my wife and I had to battle our mortgage provider to remove flood insurance it had bought for us – and we didn't need – for a condominium we owned in Florida.

While we eventually convinced our lender that we had adequate flood coverage, I spent many hours on the phone over many months before I got the insurance removed. I've since spoken to other people who had similar, if not worse, struggles.

So I've been glad that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has taken up the cause. It released rules last week that deal with various aspects of mortgage servicing, the next step in its process to make lenders more accountable to borrowers.

There are legitimate reasons for force-placed insurance. It protects a lender's interest in a property when the borrower lets property or hazard insurance lapse. Mortgage contracts contain clauses that stipulate that the borrower needs to maintain proper insurance. But force-placed insurance has become problematic in two main areas. In some cases, insurance – for hazard, flood or wind coverage – was purchased for homeowners without giving them enough time to buy their own policy, and when the premiums were taken out of their monthly mortgage payment, it put them behind on their loan. (I should mention that the cost of force-placed insurance is almost always higher than the market rate.) In other cases, borrowers were told they had to have coverage for something they did not think they needed and it was purchased for them

anyway.

In the worst cases, the cost of force-placed insurance pushed people who were already struggling financially into foreclosure. But even the best cases were not that great: people, like

hey, a spokeswoman. But the homeowners I've talked to say the rules don't go far enough, particularly because they fail to impose penalties large enough to force lenders to be more responsive to consumers.



Ed Delgado, chief operating officer of Wingspan Portfolio Advisors, at his office, in Carrollton, Texas, Aug. 15, 2012. So-called force-placed insurance is purchased by a lender rather than a homeowner, but the homeowner has to pay for it, and it's rarely inexpensive.

(Rex C. Curry/The New York Times)

me, who eventually got the insurance removed after months of frustrating calls and repeated faxes of information.

I wrote about the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's initial proposals on force-placed insurance in April. These include stricter rules on when and how lenders notify borrowers that this insurance is going to be bought for them.

The bureau's goal with the rules is to educate consumers on the costs and coverage limits of force-placed insurance, said Moira Va-

The consumer agency said it would accept comments until Oct. 9 and would issue the final rules in January.

The homeowners told me they were pleased with the agency's proposal to require lenders to tell consumers how much force-placed insurance would cost them. The bureau suggested that lenders send a letter to consumers stating in bold type what the price of the insurance would be and noting it was "probably more expensive than insurance you can buy yourself." □

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ELISABETH ROSENTHAL
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'Expendables 2' brawls to No. 1 with \$28.8M

DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sylvester Stallone and his beefy buddies have muscled their way to the top of the week-end box office.

Stallone's action hero roundup "The Expendables 2" debuted at No. 1 with \$28.8 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That's down from the \$34.8 million start for "The Expendables" two years ago. The Lionsgate sequel elbowed out another action tale as Universal's "The Bourne Legacy" fell to No. 2 in its second weekend with \$17 million. That was a steep 55 percent drop from its \$38.1 million opening weekend, though the movie's domestic total climbed to a solid \$69.6 million. Three other wide releases

opened to modest business.

Focus Features' animated comedy "ParaNorman," about a boy leading the fight against zombies that rise from the grave, was No. 3 with \$14 million.

Sony's music remake "Sparkle," featuring "American Idol" winner Jordin Sparks and Whitney Houston, was No. 5 with \$12 million. The update of the 1976 movie centers on three sisters who form a singing group in the late 1960s.

Disney's family fantasy "The Odd Life of Timothy Green" was No. 7 with \$10.9 million. The movie stars Jennifer Garner and Joel Edgerton as a childless couple who become instant parents to a boy that magically appears in their lives.

The newcomers and hold-

overs combined to lift Hollywood's overall business. Domestic revenues totaled \$139 million, up 12 percent from the same weekend

Since the first weekend of May, revenues total \$3.9 billion, down 5 percent from last summer's, when Hollywood finished with an

the year's second-biggest hit.

But other releases such as "Dark Shadows," "Battle-ship," "The Watch" and "Total Recall" were duds that failed to live up to the summer's hype.

With only two weekends left in the season and no obvious hits premiering, it's unlikely that Hollywood will break last summer's record. "We're winding down the summer and we're in the dog days of August. They're called that for a reason, because we're experiencing the typical summer slowdown, only it seems worse this year," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

Along with Stallone, "The Expendables 2" cast includes Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis, Jason Statham, Chuck Norris and Jean-Claude Van Damme.

While the sequel drew smaller crowds than the first movie, distributor Lionsgate noted that business held up better for the new one in its second day. Revenues dipped only 3 percent from Friday to Saturday compared to 11 percent for "The Expendables," according to Lionsgate. □



This film image released by Lionsgate shows, from left, Yu Nan, Terry Crews, Sylvester Stallone, Randy Couture and Dolph Lundgren in a scene from "The Expendables 2." Stallone's action hero roundup "The Expendables 2" debuted at No. 1 with \$28.8 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That's down from the \$34.8 million start for "The Expendables" two years ago.

(AP Photo/Frank Masi)

Madonna sued in Russia over gay rights support

MOSCOW (AP) — Some Russian activists have sued Madonna for millions of dollars, claiming they were offended by her support for gay rights during a recent concert in St. Petersburg.

Anti-gay sentiment is strong in Russia. In St. Petersburg, a law passed in February makes it illegal to promote homosexuality to minors, and the author of that law has pointed to the presence of children as young as 12 at Madonna's concert on Aug. 9.

Russian news agencies quote Alexander Pochuyev, a lawyer representing the nine activists, as saying the suit was filed Friday against Madonna, the organizer of her concert, and the hall where it was held, asking for damages totaling 333 million rubles, or nearly \$10.5 million.

Responding to criticism that the plaintiffs were stuck in the Middle Ages, the lawyer said they were using civilized, modern methods to defend their rights. "No one is burning anyone at the stake or carrying out an Inquisition," Pochuyev was quoted by RIA Novosti as saying. "Modern civilization requires tolerance and respect for different values."

The complaint includes a video taken at the concert showing Madonna stomping on an Orthodox cross and asking fans to raise their hands to show the pink armbands in support of gays and lesbians that were distributed among the audience, the new agency reported.

Madonna's spokeswoman, Liz Rosenberg, did not immediately respond to emails asking for the singer's reaction to the lawsuit.

Madonna also has angered conservative Russians with her support for Pussy Riot. Three members of the punk band were sentenced Friday to two years in prison for a protest inside Moscow's main cathedral against Vladimir Putin and his cozy relationship with the Russian Orthodox Church.

Madonna spoke out in support of the group during her concert in St. Petersburg and two days earlier in Moscow. After the verdict was issued, Madonna called on "all those who love freedom to condemn this unjust punishment." □

last year, when "The Help" led with \$20 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

Business had been down the previous three weekends this summer, which has fallen short of the record-setting business many studio executives were predicting at the start of the season.

all-time high of \$4.4 billion for the season, according to Hollywood.com.

This summer delivered huge hits such as "The Avengers" with \$617.6 million domestically and "The Dark Knight Rises," which took in \$11.1 million this weekend to cross the \$400 million mark and edge past "The Hunger Games" to become

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Minaj cancels UK festival show due to vocal chords



Nicki Minaj, Trinidadian-born American rapper, singer, songwriter and voice actress, performs at Roseland Ballroom on Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012 in New York. Minaj has canceled her appearance at this weekend's V Festival in the United Kingdom because of damage to her vocal cords.

(Photo by Jason DeCrow/Invision/AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — Nicki Minaj has canceled her appearance at this weekend's V Festival in the United Kingdom because of damage to her vocal cords.

Her representative says in an email that Minaj will have to back out of her shows on Saturday

and Sunday because of "strained vocal chords." Minaj performed a free concert in New York City on Wednesday, though she had been advised by her doctor to rest.

Her representative now says her voice is "worse," and that recent X-rays show that the singer-rapper

must "rest her voice for a few days."

The two-day V Festival also features David Guetta, The Killers, LMFAO and The Stone Roses.

Minaj performed for more than two hours at her New York show. It featured Drake, Lil Wayne and Foxy Brown. □

Miss China crowned Miss World 2012



Newly crowned Miss World Yu Wenxia of China, center, is congratulated by first runner-up Miss Wales, Sophie Moulds, left, and 2nd runner-up Miss Australia Jessica Kahawaty, right, during the Miss World 2012 beauty pageant at the Ordos Stadium Arena in inner Mongolia, China Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

ORDOS, China (AP) — China's Yu Wenxia has been crowned the 2012 Miss World.

This is the second time Miss China has been awarded the title.

The last time was in 2007 when Zhang Zilin took the honor.

The first runner-up is Sophie

Elizabeth Moulds of Wales and the second runner-up is Jessica Michelle Kahawaty of Australia.

The 23-year-old Yu is a music student who says she wants to become a music teacher.

This is the first time for the Inner Mongolian city of Ordos to host the international

beauty pageant.

The city is one of the richest regions in China thanks to its abundant natural resources.

It hopes the world event will raise its profile for economic development and tourism. Sanya, another Chinese city, has hosted the contest several times. □



Jay Leno presents the Jimmy V Award for Perseverance at the ESPY Awards in Los Angeles. Published reports say The Tonight Show has laid off about two dozen workers and host Jay Leno has taken a large pay cut to save the jobs of other staffers, Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles)

The Tonight Show cuts Staff as Leno trims pay

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — "The Tonight Show" has laid off about two dozen workers, prompting host Jay Leno to accept a pay cut to spare other staffers as NBC clamps down on expenses.

NBC Universal imposed the cutbacks Friday, according to a person familiar with the moves. The person asked not to be identified because NBC Universal hadn't officially disclosed the cost cutting.

The payroll purge affected about 10 percent of the roughly 200 people who work on "The Tonight Show," still the top-rated late-night program. Viewers shouldn't notice any changes in programming at "The Tonight Show," the person said.

NBC Universal is trying to improve its financial performance under the ownership of Comcast Corp., which bought the entertainment company last year.

Leno had been making between \$25 million to \$30 million annually as the host of "The Tonight Show." His salary will be reduced to about \$20 million after making the job-saving concessions. Leno also brings in substantial income touring

as a stand-up comedian.

"Jay's foremost concern is for the wonderful people who work with him at 'The Tonight Show,'" said Bruce Bobbins, a spokesman for Leno. "He did what was necessary to ensure their well-being."

Several other staffers on "The Tonight Show" also absorbed pay cuts.

David Letterman, the host of a rival late-night show on CBS, accepted a significant pay cut in 2009.

The show's cost-cutting measures were first reported by Deadline Hollywood, a website that tracks the entertainment industry.

Comcast bought a controlling interest in NBC Universal for \$6.2 billion in cash and several cable-TV channels valued at \$7.25 billion. Besides its TV network and several cable channels, NBC also owns the Universal Pictures movie studio and theme parks.

Comcast, which is based in Philadelphia, makes most of its money selling cable TV and high-speed Internet access. Despite its solid ratings, "The Tonight Show" hasn't been a big moneymaker. That prompted the cuts Friday, which are expected to trim the program's weekly budget by about \$600,000, or 25 percent, to \$1.7 million. □

Political Page Turners



GAIL COLLINS

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Let's see if we can clear up a few things.

First of all, Paul Ryan and Mitt Romney are not the same person. They aren't even related! Stop spreading rumors! Although they do sort of look alike and enjoy spending time together. Perhaps Mitt regards Paul as the sixth son he never had.

Ryan is the one who lives on the same block where he grew up. Romney is the one who lives in four different states.

Ryan is the one who spent his youth cooking hamburgers at McDonald's. Romney is the one who used to enjoy dressing up as a police officer and playing fun pranks on his prep school friends. Neither one of them worked as a Wiernmobile driver. Really, I don't know where you get this stuff.

Ryan is the one who likes to catch catfish by sticking his fist into their burrows and dragging them out by the throat. Romney is the one who drove to Canada with his dog strapped to the car roof.

When it comes to the issues, both men are on the same page. Although the page does keep turning, and you have to wonder how average voters can cope with all of the confusion.

Fortunately, polls suggest average voters have already decided who they're going to support and, therefore, have no need whatsoever to try to figure out which page the Romney-Ryan campaign is on.

Practically the only person in America who claims to have no idea who he's going to vote for is Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., who recently declared himself absolutely and totally undecided. People, do you think it's possible that the entire presidential campaign is now being waged just for the benefit of Joseph Lieberman? On the one hand, that's a real waste of about \$1 billion. On the other, it's exactly what Joseph Lieberman has been waiting for all his life.

Anyway, about the issues:

Ryan is the one who requested stimulus money for his district, but he is sorry. The stimulus was a terrible thing, and Ryan had no intention of trying to glom onto a chunk of it. He thought he was just forwarding a constituent request for some ... constituent thing. Or four.

Romney is the one who hired undocumented workers to mow his lawn. Totally by mistake.

Ryan is the one who voted for a massive prescription drug Medicare entitlement, the Bush tax cuts and two wars without paying for any of them. He is even sorer about this than he is about the stimulus.

Romney is the one who passed Obamacare before Barack Obama. But it wasn't the same thing at all because it happened in a state.

Both men want to make more big tax cuts that will be paid for with the closing of tax loopholes. They are in total, complete concurrence that the identity of these loopholes is not an appropriate topic for a presidential campaign.

Ryan is supposed to be the Tea Party hero and Romney is the one they hated so much they were actually willing to contemplate a Newt Gingrich presidency to avoid him.

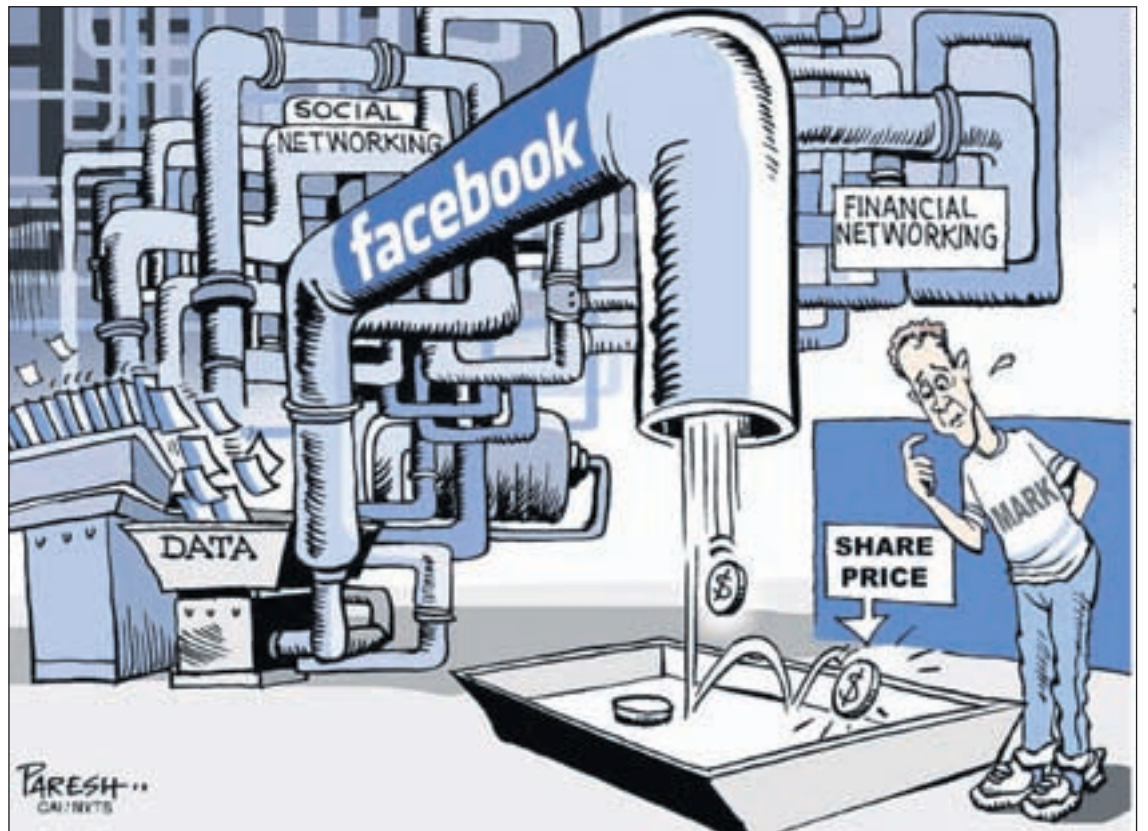
But I'm not entirely sure we can trust the hard right to know what it wants any more. This week in Florida, a Republican primary uprising knocked out Cliff Stearns, a superconservative veteran congressman who had campaigned on his efforts to kill off federal funds for Planned Parenthood and embarrass the Obama administration with an investigation into the Solyndra loans. That sort of bragging enraged the faithful by reminding them that Stearns was a Washington insider, and he lost to a newcomer named Ted Yoho.

Maybe Tea Party voters now only want to send people to Washington who will lack the capacity to get anything done. Personally, I'm kind of OK with that. Also, I like the idea of having a congressman named Ted Yoho, as well as the fact that Yoho describes himself as a "large animal veterinarian." We don't have many veterinarians in Congress, and you never can tell when a visiting heifer will come down with a medical problem.

All right, a little more about the issues.

Romney has a plan to make Medicare solvent forever. We know this because he wrote "Solvent" on the board at a press conference the other day. Ryan used to have a plan to make Medicare solvent forever by taking it away from everybody under age 55 and giving them health insurance vouchers instead. But that was so 2011.

Now, Ryan and Romney are on the same page when it comes to Medicare, which is that it must be saved from the \$716 billion in cuts Obama wants to make over the next 10 years. Although the same \$716 billion was in the budget plan that Ryan got the House to pass this year. But it's not like he expected it to happen. "We would never have done it," he told campaign reporters, desperate wretches condemned to roam the earth with calculators, endlessly searching for the Ryan-Romney page. □



Ever Hear The One About...



JOE NOCERA

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Tying up loose ends before vacation:

— What was THAT about? The Standard Chartered scandal, I mean. Nearly two weeks ago, we were led to believe that the big British bank had conducted some \$250 billion worth of illegal transactions with Iranian institutions. But, after the charges were brought by the New York state Department of Financial Services, other regulators, in Washington and London, expressed shock. They were upset, first, because they had been blindsided and, second, because they, too, had been investigating the bank and were coming to the conclusion that its behavior was largely legal.

Then, on the eve of a public hearing that could have cost the bank its New York license, Standard Chartered settled for \$340 million. On the one hand, that is a huge sum for a state regulator to collect. On the other hand, it is a rounding error for the bank, which quietly put out the word that it had settled to put the bad publicity behind it. (Its calculation appears to have been a good one — the bank's stock quickly rose once the settlement was announced.)

What is frustrating is that here we are, after these inflammatory charges have been hurled, with no idea whether they are true. If Standard Chartered routinely conducted illegal transac-

tions, then Benjamin Lawsky, the chief New York bank regulator, showed the kind of spine that other regulators have largely lacked. And if it didn't? Then the bank is the victim of a publicity-hungry regulator. Neither prospect is fun to contemplate.

— Someone told me recently that a handful of firms that use high-frequency trading strategies are developing a new microwave system to connect their Chicago and New York offices. The reason? To shave literally nanoseconds off the time it takes to complete trades. It's true. It's also madness.

After I wrote about high-frequency trading two weeks ago, I wound up thinking I had understated how corrosive — and pervasive — it has become. In fact, the markets have been largely optimized for high-frequency trading. The exchanges cater to these traders. Everyone scrambles to get their business. Firms like Knight Capital — which lost \$440 million a couple weeks ago in a computer fiasco — both take orders from brokers and run their own trading systems. That gives them, undeniably, advantages for their own trading. The regulators, focused on the prospect of computer malfunctions that lead to wild price swings, are missing the forest for the trees. The real issue is the capture of the markets by high-frequency traders, not the occasions their computers run amok.

As for the long-term investor or the companies that want to tap the capital markets, their concerns scarcely matter. High-frequency trading is where Wall Street now makes it money. That's all that counts.

— Have you been following the recent athletic scandal swirling around the University of North Carolina? It has been brewing since last August when The News and Observer of Raleigh obtained the transcript of a football player who'd suspiciously completed a senior-level course the summer before his freshman

year. This triggered an inquiry going back to 2007, which revealed that the African and Afro-American Studies Department was a haven for no-show classes, grades that were quietly changed and bogus independent studies courses. The purpose of these shenanigans, it would appear, was to keep athletes, especially football players, eligible.

The department chairman quickly resigned, and the university promised to make sure nothing like this ever happened again. But, earlier this week, a transcript was posted online that appears to have been the scholastic record of the former UNC — and current Chicago Bears — player Julius Peppers. Peppers attended North Carolina long before 2007; his first year was 1998. And his transcript — with its summer courses that magically allowed him to retain his eligibility — could serve as a template for how to remain eligible without getting anything that approaches an education. It also suggests that these problems have been going on a lot longer than 2007. Is North Carolina a particularly bad actor? Hardly. But gaming the system has become a necessity for every big-time football and basketball school. In the wake of the Penn State scandal, the NCAA is vowing to never again allow universities to put athletics ahead of academics. But it's too late for that. The only real answer is to stop the hypocrisy, pay the players and let them attend school — if they want.

— Let's see: It's been three months since Facebook went public. Since then, its stock has fallen around 50 percent, plaintiffs' lawyers are lining up to sue it over its botched initial offering, and the news coming out of Facebook has been unremittingly lousy. The person who was most reluctant to take Facebook public was Mark Zuckerberg, its youthful chief executive. I wonder what he's thinking now. □

For a group of lawyers, food is the new tobacco



Pierce Gore, one in a group of lawyers taking on food companies over what they say are mislabeled products and ingredients that mislead consumers, in Campbell, Calif., Aug. 8, 2012. More than a dozen lawyers who took on Big Tobacco have filed 25 cases against industry players like ConAgra Foods, PepsiCo, Heinz, General Mills and Chobani.

(Peter DaSilva/The New York Times)

STEPHANIE STROM

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Don Barrett, a Mississippi lawyer, took in hundreds of millions of dollars a decade ago after suing Big Tobacco and winning record settlements from R.J. Reynolds, Philip Morris and other cigarette makers. So did Walter Umphrey, Dewitt M. Lovelace and Stuart and Carol Nelkin.

Ever since, the lawyers have been searching for big paydays in business, scoring more modest wins against car companies, drug makers, brokerage firms and insurers. Now, they have found the next target: food manufacturers.

More than a dozen lawyers who took on the tobacco companies have filed 25 cases against industry players like ConAgra Foods, PepsiCo, Heinz, General Mills and Chobani that stock pantry shelves and refrigerators across America. The suits, filed over the last four months, assert that food makers are misleading consumers and violating federal regulations by wrongly labeling products and ingredients. While there has been a barrage of litigation against the industry in recent years, the tobacco lawyers are moving particularly aggressively. They are asking a federal

court in California to halt ConAgra's sales of Pam cooking spray, Swiss Miss cocoa products and some Hunt's canned tomatoes.

"It's a crime – and that makes it a crime to sell it," said Barrett, citing what he contends is the mislabeling of those products. "That means these products should be taken off the shelves."

The food companies counter that the suits are without merit, another example of litigation gone wild and driven largely by the lawyers' financial motivations. Barrett said his group could seek damages amounting to four years of sales of mislabeled products – which could total many billions of dollars.

"It's difficult to take some of these claims seriously, for instance, that a consumer was deceived into believing that a chocolate hazelnut spread for bread was healthy for children," said Kristen E. Polovoy, an industry lawyer at Montgomery McCracken, referring to a lawsuit that two mothers brought against the maker of Nutella. "I think the courts are starting to look at the implausibility of some of these suits."

A federal judge in California in 2009 dismissed a case against PepsiCo,

which accused the company of false advertising because Cap'n Crunch's Crunch Berries cereal does not contain real berries. He ruled that "a reasonable consumer would not be deceived into believing that the product in the instant case contained a fruit that does not exist."

While the lawyers are being questioned about their motives, they are not alone in pursuing the food industry. In recent weeks, the Center for Science in the Public Interest has sued General

Mills and McNeil Nutritionals over their claims on Nature Valley and Splenda Essentials products, and warned Welch's it would sue unless the company changed the wording on its juice and fruit snacks. The Federal Trade Commission won settlements from companies like Dannon and Pom Wonderful for claims about their products' health benefits of their products.

And PepsiCo and Coca-Cola face lawsuits over claims that their orange juice products are "100(PERCENT) natural."

The latest playbook – like the one that paid off in the wave of tobacco litigation – could prove potent, as the food companies' own lawyers have warned.

Other plaintiffs' lawyers have largely taken aim at food products marketed as "healthy" or "natural," subjective claims that can be easily disputed by expert witnesses. Unlike foods labeled "organic," there are no federal standards for foods that are called "healthy" or "natural."

The new batch of litigation argues that food companies are violating specific rules about ingredients and labels. Barrett's group, for example, has brought a case against Chobani, the Greek yogurt maker, for listing "evaporated cane juice," as an ingredient in



Ingredients such as the propellant in this Pam cooking spray are attracting attention from lawyers, in Campbell, Calif. (Peter DaSilva/The New York Times)

its pomegranate-flavored yogurt. The Food and Drug Administration has repeatedly warned companies not to use the term because it is "false and misleading," according to the suit.

"If you're going to put sugar in your yogurt, why not just say it's sugar?" said Pierce Gore, a lawyer affiliated with Barrett's group. Food companies dispute the accusations, defending their packaging and marketing. Nicki Briggs, a spokeswoman for Chobani, said the lawsuit was "frivolous" and "without merit." Even so, such cases are raising concerns within the industry. □



Christine Sturges, a hairdresser who is one of the plaintiffs in a suit against ConAgra involving its Pam cooking spray, at home in Campbell, Calif., Aug. 14, 2012.

(Jim Wilson/The New York Times)